

Labor

MEDIA RELEASE

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LIBERALS & NATIONALS BROKEN PROMISE TO CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITIES

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Sam Faraway was forced to make an embarrassing revelation during a recent budget estimates hearing that not one single kilometre of road has been transferred under the key 2019 Liberals and Nationals Commitment to reclassify and transfer 15,000 kilometres of roads.

Under intense questioning, a red-faced Minister could not bring himself to say the words “it is zero”, despite it being clear that zero roads have been transferred under the program.

The Minister dashed the hopes of regional motorists and cash strapped regional councils that the glacial roll out of the program would be sped up, saying the Government’s key 2019 election commitment is “not a burning topic” amongst regional Councils.

The Minister also cast doubt on whether the full complement of 15,000km promised would be transferred, repeatedly stating that the policy was “up to” 15,000 km.

Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison said the Minister’s evidence confirmed that the Regional Roads Transfer and Road Classification Review promise was a cynical attempt to pork barrel regional communities.

“This was a “magic pudding” election promise, every Nationals and Liberal candidate could point to a potential road in their electorate which could be eligible for reclassification or transfer, and the Government still, nearly four years later, hasn’t transferred as single one of them,” she said.

“What’s worse, after numerous questions Transport bureaucrats were unable to even confirm a dollar or kilometre figure for policy in 2022/23 and over the forwards. For a signature promise, this is astounding.”

Member for Wyong, David Harris MP said he was absolutely disgusted to hear the Minister’s admission that a city-based council was approved under a so-called “business as usual” reclassification yet Central Coast Council have been snubbed by the Liberal National Government.

“We’ve got local roads like Pacific Highway through Wyong that have been put on the back burner by this Liberal National Government.”

“I am shocked and appalled that the Government has failed to deliver in our local community after almost 4 years.”

“The Government has delivered nothing but disappointment for the residents of the Wyong Electorate.”

“This is just another example of the Liberal National Government not delivering and not listening to our regional communities.”

“One thing is for sure, under this Government, business as usual is putting the city before the regions, every time.”

The link to the clip is here: <https://we.tl/t-4STyTK2IIZ>

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