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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 01 September 2023

### **Peak body urges early consultation with local civil industry to maximise benefits of Thornton rail bridge duplication project**

The Civil Contractors Federation of NSW today welcomed the Minns Government's \$15million commitment to kick-start the Thornton rail bridge duplication project saying it was a great opportunity for local jobs if done well.

CCF NSW Chief Executive Officer Kylie Yates said early consultation with the local civil construction industry was critical to ensure local contractors could bid for the work and maximise economic benefits to the region.

"This project is a perfect opportunity for the Hunter to lead the way and right the wrongs we've seen in many large infrastructure projects, which have seen budget and delivery blowouts," Ms Yates said.

"I welcome the Minns Government's commitment to consulting with industry and urge them to do so at the earliest opportunity to ensure we get the design, structure and phasing of this project right.

"Let's set this project up for success from the start with consultation, transparency and appropriate risk transfer in contracts.

"Under the previous government, contract requirements were so onerous that often only the major international construction companies could compete, squeezing out local companies.

"The Hunter region has a strong and skilled civil infrastructure industry so let's use them and see the Government's investment poured back into the local economy."

Ms Yates said with many infrastructure projects underway statewide, it was important to phase this work correctly so local contractors could plan the job and their workforce, and to ensure the work was sustainable over time.

"The NSW civil industry congratulates the Premier and Minister Aitchison on delivering this election commitment which is so important to the civil industry and the growing Maitland region."

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