

Aussie invention fixes roads

A new machine designed to quickly and efficiently fix problems with soft and crumbling road edges, and not even had its official launch, has been working on flood damaged roads around the Cessnock City area.

The recent floods and continuing rains wreaked havoc on roads and can spell disaster for motorists.

But a new, locally developed machine has already been on the job.

A Gosford civil contracting and road maintenance company, Sharpe Bros, has developed a unique set of award winning equipment, named "Sidewinder.

Sharpe Bros, has been carrying out road repair and maintenance work in Watagn Creek Road and

VincentStreet Spokesman Michael Sharpe said the quick turn-around time was proving to be a particular benefit for local councils who are busy cleaning up after the devastating floods.

"A job that would normally take at least a week can be completed in a day at a much lower cost," Mr. Sharpe said.

"Our Sidewinder equipment will be hard at work making roads safer in other parts of the Hunter, the Central Coast and the Illawarra region over coming weeks.

"The usual way of repairing broken edges is to dig up a substantial amount of the road before resurfacing, which causes major disruption to traffic over a period of time and is

quite costly. The Sidewinder process extends the life of the road and reduces traffic disruption, enabling sections of road to be repaired on a daily basis.

"The Sidewinder process involves using a machine which cuts a neat one metre wide trench at 100 millimetre depth along the road edge without the need to dig up a wider section of road. This is followed by the purpose built machinery for pouring hotmix asphalt into the excavated trench."