

ITEM C

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR FIGLIOMENI - SEATS PETITION FOR PRINCES HIGHWAY

Councillor Figliomeni has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council support the South East Australia Transport Strategy Inc Petition calling on the Federal Government to –
 - a have the status of the Princes Highway officially recognised as a Highway of National Importance as a major freight and tourist route under The National Land Transport Network Act 2014; and,
 - b secure the provision of additional funding for the planning and delivery of new infrastructure, the maintenance of existing infrastructure and vital safety upgrades.
- 2 The petition be promoted and made available for Councillors, staff and community information and involvement via Council's website, information desk and customer service centres."

Background provided by Councillor Figliomeni:

Council is an active member of the South East Australia Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS), a cross-border, strategic partnership across Councils, State and Federal Governments, industry, business and communities. SEATS has the simple vision of an effective integrated transport network throughout the South East Australian Region that stimulates economic growth that is sustainable and sensitive to the environment and enhances communities.

SEATS has released a Petition to the Federal Government regarding the recognition of the Princes Highway and urgent funding required for the development and upkeep of this vital transport network. The petition calls on the Federal Government to officially recognise the importance of the Princes Highway between East Sale and Wollongong as a major freight and tourist route, and to commit additional and ongoing funding to address the condition of this vital transport network which covers over 739 kms.

The Region embraces south east NSW, eastern Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory and is bounded by the Hume Highway corridor between Sydney and Melbourne and the coastal strip between Wollongong and Western Port. The region has enormous potential and opportunities which these improvements would undoubtedly unlock, and inadequate transport infrastructure has long been identified as a major impediment to the growth and prosperity of this region.

In response the SEATS partnership has developed the Transport Network Strategy which collectively identifies a number of Priority Projects that go beyond the boundaries of individual local councils and benefit the entire region and beyond. The attraction of investment in these transport and infrastructure projects through strong advocacy will significantly improve the efficiency of the transport network across the region, support sustainable growth, boost the economic competitiveness, improve employment prospects and enhance communities through improved safer access and business services.

There has been a significant increase in the traffic using the Princes Highway and these vital upgrades are the key to the development, growth, sustainability and improved safety outcomes for the region. As a large region of approximately two million people and one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, recognition of the importance of the Princes Highway as a main arterial corridor will provide the same attention and support that other networks like the Hume Highway have received for many decades.

SEATS have asked member Councils to support the petition, which will be open until the end of February 2018, by making it available at local council offices and information centres across the region. This will support the call on the Federal Government to take action to officially recognise the Princes Highway as a Highway of National Importance under the National Land Transport Act 2014 and ensure that urgent and ongoing funding is provided by the Australian Government.