

# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

Presentation to South East Australian Transport  
Strategy Inc. 18/19 August, 2011

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# Overview

- NSW Roads & Transport Directorate
- NSW Roads Congress – key outcomes
- How SEATS members can help?



Institute of  
Public Works  
Engineering  
Australia  
(NSW Division)



# IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

Established by Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW) in partnership with the Local Government and Shires Associations & Local Government Association to provide support to its members working in local government across the state.

Supported financially by membership contributions from Local Councils in NSW.

138 of 152 Councils in NSW are members.





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# IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

Purpose is to assist LG in the road & transport area by aiding member Councils, IPWEA members, LGSA & LGA to:

- meet their legal and technical needs in asset management & road safety
- lobby for a higher priority for road infrastructure and for a more equitable share of resources and funding; and
- provide a powerful technical and research resource on transport issues at regional, state and national level





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# IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

Activities overseen by an Executive Committee consisting of representatives of LGSA, LGA, IPWEA NSW & RTA

A number of working groups including:

- Technical Working Group
- Bridge Working Group
- Transport Working Group

Significant runs on the board (e.g. Road Asset Benchmarking research, NSW Local Roads Congress & tools for practitioners)

Executive Officer Mick Savage (82173000)

[www.roadsdirectorate.org.au](http://www.roadsdirectorate.org.au)

# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 1. Constitutional Recognition

- NSW LRC supported the inclusion of Local Government in the Australian Constitution
- Funding arrangements direct from the Federal government to LG have proved efficient and provide flexibility to local communities about priorities but are potentially at risk (e.g. Roads to Recovery)
- Eurobodalla Shire Council has resolved to support constitutional recognition
- SEATS member Councils – NSW Council 15 of 18 & 3 of 7 Victorian Councils have notified ALGA they have resolutions supporting constitutional recognition (NSW 130 of 152 Councils have supported)



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- Funding gap in NSW LG - **\$667M (2009/10) per annum** just to sustain the road network (refer 2010 NSW R & TD report)
- Shortfall is restricting willingness of LG to open local and regional road networks to higher productivity transport vehicles
- Currently funding levels mean we're also passing our debt to our kids



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- Roads to Recovery needs to be:
  - Permanent or equivalent extra funding (eg % of GST)
  - Substantially increased (ALGA seeking four fold increase)
  - Increased annually thereafter by the construction index

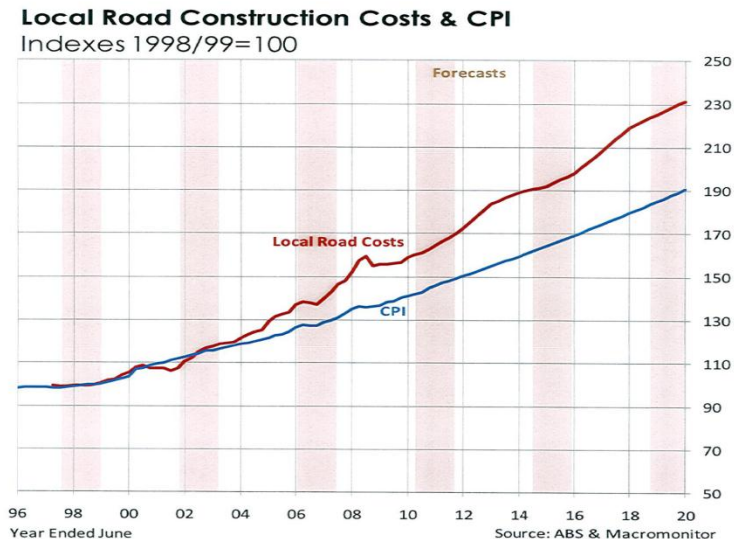


# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- \$1.00 in 2010 will be worth only \$0.92 in 2020 if indexed to CPI
- Rate pegging environment in NSW not sustainable – will IPART recognise real cost increases or perpetuate the current unsustainable position??



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure
  - Need an extra and separate Strategic Component of R2R targeting transport efficiency upgrades on Regional & Local Roads based on regional priorities (personal view)



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011 Key Outcomes

## 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- Funding alone will not resolve the issue. Need:
  - Improved asset management
  - Agreement on the Level of Service the community is willing to fund based on whole of life costs
  - Focus on pro-active renewal strategies (eg resealing pavements)



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- Funding alone will not resolve the issue. Need:
  - To pursue ways to reduce renewal costs (eg stabilisation, longer lasting treatments, technological advancement, capacity building)
  - Dilemma -> increasing legislation and skills shortage pushing costs skyward



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 2. Funding for Local & Regional Road Infrastructure

- Examples of strategies at ESC:
  - High level of resealing
  - Pavement designs 40 year life instead of 20 years
  - Use of narrower urban roads
  - Increased pavement crossfall 4% sealed, 6-8% unsealed)
  - Reduce sealing of unsealed roads
  - Contracting where appropriate
  - More strategic approach to works (longer lengths, village reseals)
  - Design pavement overlays to suit future stabilisation (25% cheaper next cycle)



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 3. Regional Transport Plans

- NSW Transport focused on Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, North Coast
- Need RTPs for whole of State including SE region covering all forms of transport (road, rail, air, cycling, walking) linked to regional planning strategies
- Need to address freight, tourism and social connectedness
- SEATS work done provides excellent information to feed into RTPs



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011 Key Outcomes

## 3. Regional Transport Plans

- RTPs will better inform applications to Infrastructure Australia
- NSW LG needs to partner with the State, RDAs & Industry to prepare informed RTPs to ensure a strong case to Infrastructure Australia
- SE IPWEA Group has agreed to scope the brief for a RTP covering the SEROC region – will need information from member Councils

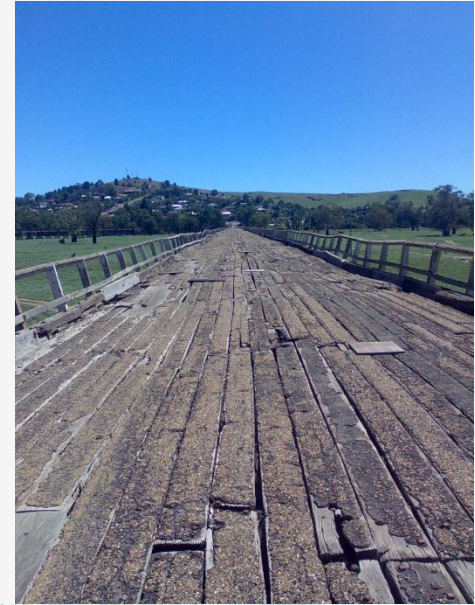


# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 4. Bridges

- NSW State Regional Road Timber Bridge program now drawn to an end
- Over 7,000 bridges on NSW LG roads, many of which will limit higher productivity vehicles (not just timber structures)
- Strategic Federal and State program needed to aid LG in delivering productivity outcomes based on regional priorities – Strategic R2R?



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 5. Heavy Vehicles – Improvement in Productivity

- Announcement by Minister that industry can now pursue HML applications across NSW
- LG supports higher productivity vehicles but on the basis of appropriate funding back to LG
- COAG Road Reform Plan looking at five pricing options including links back to road authorities
- NSW R & TD has made a submission to the CRRP



# NSW Local Roads Congress 2011

## Key Outcomes

### 6. Skills Shortage

- Critical skills funding – make the most of it!
- LG and those working with, need strong development & capacity building programs
- Eurobodalla Shire Council's award winning Certificate III, IV & V course working in partnership with Riverina TAFE
- IPWEA taking a lead role now (Certificate IV & V applications through EOI phase, partnering with Tasmanian University to deliver Asset Management, developing toolkits and training for practitioners – much more to come



# How can SEATS members help?

## Recommendations:

1. SEATS support the outcomes of the NSW Local Roads Congress as outlined in the Congress Communiqué.
2. SEATS members consider attendance at the National Road Congress in 16-18 November at Mt Gambier SA to demonstrate strong support to government of the need to overcome the issues facing Local Government and which are limiting in transport efficiency, economic growth and employment.
3. SEATS members, where appropriate, be encouraged to write individually to their own State & Federal MPs and the relevant Ministers seeking support:
  - For Constitutional Recognition of LG
  - To have the Roads to Recovery Program made permanent, substantially increased and thereafter annually increased in line with the construction index



# How can SEATS members help?

## Recommendations:

3. SEATS members, where appropriate, be encouraged to write individually to their own State & Federal MPs and the relevant Ministers seeking support
  - To introduce a targeted extra funding program to aid LG in overcoming impediments on Local & Regional Roads to facilitate higher productivity vehicles on appropriate transport routes, with priorities to be determined based on regional priorities. Such programs to address route assessments, bridge, pavement and other transport upgrades
  - Immediate funding of a Regional Transport Strategy for the SE of NSW
4. SEATS member Council's be encouraged to continue to pursue avenues to build capacity within their organisations and the LG industry, taking both a short and long term view, to allow optimisation of the local & regional road transport network in line with community expectations



# The end...

