

SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT STRATEGY INC.

SEATS

SEATS provides highly co-ordinated and influential advocacy for the development of transport infrastructure in the South Eastern Australia region that supports economic development and the prosperity of its constituents.

SEATS REPORT – November 2011

The quarterly meeting of SEATS was held on 24 and 25 November 2011 at Wollongong City Council Chambers in Wollongong NSW. The meeting was hosted by Wollongong City Council.

The meeting was attended by 30 SEATS delegates each day. SEATS members were welcomed by Cr Gordon Bradbury OAM, the Lord Mayor of Wollongong City Council. Cr Bradbury particularly mentioned the role of SEATS in advocating for funding for the Princes Highway, the Port Kembla facility including the Maldon – Dombarton rail link and Picton Road..

Meeting Dates for 2012:

FEBRUARY 2012: 16 and 17 February 2012 hosted by Wellington Shire at Sale, Victoria

MAY 2012: 17 and 18 May 2012 hosted by Yass Valley Council at Yass, New South Wales.

AUGUST 2012: 16 and 17 August 2012 hosted by VicRoads at Wantirna, Victoria

NOVEMBER 2012: 15 and 16 November 2012 Hosted by Cooma-Monaro Shire Council at Cooma, New South Wales.

May 2013: Meeting to be hosted by Eurobodalla Shire Council at Batemans Bay New South Wales

Hosting a meeting involves arranging for between 25 and 35 delegates to hold a meeting with power point presentation facilities, light lunch and afternoon tea on the Thursday, host a Dinner on Thursday evening for between 30 and 40 guests and a Guest Speaker, arranging two or three guest speakers on transport infrastructure matters of interest (not more than half an hour per presentation) on the Friday morning with arrangements for morning tea and then a light lunch at about 12 noon.

It is also usual (although it doesn't have to happen) for the host Council to organise a guided Bus Tour of the area with particular reference to a transport infrastructure issue in the area or something considered of interest to delegates.

If Councils are preparing budgets for 2012/13 it may be worthwhile thinking about including an item to enable the ability to host a SEATS meeting.

Advocacy Committees

It was decided that the Advocacy Committees in each state should ascertain the contact details of all politicians and their staff and the appropriate officials in each appropriate government department in their state and federally. This information is to be conveyed to the Executive Officer of SEATS and the Advocacy Committees will make arrangements to personally speak with those key people in each state on an ongoing basis.

The initial work needs to be undertaken by March 2012. Regular meetings will be held with the Advocacy Committees and the Victorian Committee has already in the process of making an appointment with The Hon Terry Mulder, the Victorian Minister for Roads.

High Speed Rail (or Very Fast Train) position

SEATS has supported the HSR concept for some years and has strongly advocated that the possible route should include the south east region of our SEATS area such as through Cooma, Bombala and down to the East Gippsland area.

Recent developments with the feasibility study has clearly indicated that the preferred route option is from Sydney to Melbourne (via Canberra) to Goulburn, Yass, Albury, Wodonga etc.

The meeting decided to support this proposal as that will benefit many within our region. We will be urging the Government to proceed with the HSR Study and to plan for the setting aside or identification of land that will be needed to ensure that the route is sustainable.

It was also decided to recommend that the continuation of the Study and consequential work becomes a SEATS priority project.

Membership of SEATS

The meeting welcomed two new members, Gippsland Ports and SEROC and looks forward to working closely with them in the coming years. We are hopeful that the Victorian Department of Transport will become member of SEATS in the near future.

SEATS Website

All members are encouraged to look at the revamped SEATS website www.seats.org.au

It has a whole host of information about our work, our priority projects, the presentations made to every quarterly meeting for the last six years, the Newsletters and other relevant information which may be used when speaking with parliamentarians and departmental officials about our regionally significant transport infrastructure needs.

Any suggestions you may have to improve the site would be welcomed.

Election Policy Documents renamed and brought up to date

The revamped SEATS website has a section on Current Priority Projects which shows the current Victorian Priority Projects and the current NSW Priority Projects. This information was contained in the SEATS Election Policy documents. This needs to be updated and all members are asked to look at these documents and advise the Executive Officer of any changes that should be made.

LGA Profiles

Our website contains some of our LGA profiles. These are now in need of revision and others are to be provided. Council members are asked to look at their profiles on our site and to send the Executive Officer any changes and or updates.

Strategic Network – Creating Economic Development by improving Transport Networks in South Eastern Australia

This document written in 2010 is now a bit out of date and requires an overhaul. A sub committee has been appointed to do this work and they will meet on the day before the next quarterly SEATS meeting in Sale in Victoria. Much of the work will be done by e-mail before hand with a day devoted to discussing and agreeing upon changes and updates.

The committee is Ralf Kastan, Greg Pullen, Graham Brisbane, Cr Mike Coley, Cr Jeanette Harding and Matthew Christensen.

All members are asked to read the Strategic Network document and to send any corrections / updates etc to the Executive Officer in the next few weeks but prior to the Christmas holidays. The document is on the SEATS website www.seats.org.au under publications.

Cross Border Heavy Vehicles Freight Study

The Victorian Government has promised \$25,000 towards this study. We are waiting for the NSW Government to determine if they will put up a similar amount. SEATS will contribute about \$18,000 to the project and member organizations have pledged an additional \$8,000.

It is hoped that a announcement can be made soon. This has been one of our priority projects for about three years.

MR 92 – Beyond Nerriga update

The five Councils involved in this project met with SEATS Executive Officer Chris Vardon twice in the three months ended November 2011. An agreed position was reached between the Councils and representatives of the Councils and SEATS met with the Roads Minister Duncan Gay on 10 November 2011. They put forward a very good case for funding of a study to determine the route of MR92 beyond Nerriga and requested that the Minister grant funds to assist with that study. They got a good hearing and it is hoped that the Minister will announce within the next couple of weeks that funding is being provided.

This project has been one of SEATS priorities for some years. Thanks to the cooperation of all five Councils involved this project is now firmly on the Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

Brenden Logue, Wollongong City Council's Manager Organisational Strategy and Improvement (Acting), gave a presentation on the Economic Development initiatives of Wollongong City Council and highlighted the extensive cooperation between Wollongong City Council and the Wollongong Chamber of Commerce and the whole Wollongong Business community. He spoke about the Advantage Wollongong campaign (refer advantagewollongong.com.au and said that Wollongong was promoting itself as a Knowledge Capital for Business, Education and Research. The key growth sectors are Business Services, ICT and Financial Services.

Brenden indicated that the achievement of the campaign has been the 1,310 new jobs created in Wollongong as a result of the Advantage Wollongong Strategy.

A detailed account of his presentation will be in the December 2011 SEATS Newsletter and the powerpoint presentation is on the SEATS website.

Mede Gorgievski, Principal Consultant, GHD Strategy and Economics talked about the preparation of submissions to Infrastructure Australia. His very detailed and vital presentation is on the SEATS website. An article in the December SEATS Newsletter will inform all members of this most important work.

Preparing submissions for Infrastructure Australia need to follow a 7 stage process namely (1) Goal Definition; (2) Problem Identification; (3) Problem Assessment; (4) Problem Analysis; (5) Options Generation; (6) Options Assessment and (7) Solution Prioritisation.

Each of these stages was dealt with in detail and are explained in his presentation.

As a direct result of his talk SEATS will update and improve on SEATS Priority Project template to ensure that information obtained therein on each of our projects priorities meets the standard requirements of Infrastructure Australia.

Peter Tobin of Wollongong City Council presented on "Landslide remediation across the City". This presentation was pertinent in that it directly related to what SEATS members have seen at the Princes Highway, Morwell in Victoria in recent times and at the Clyde Mountain in the area between Batemans Bay and Braidwood in NSW on the Kings Highway.

He gave a very interesting talk on landslides experienced in the Wollongong Council area, highlighted the extent to which funding had to be taken from other projects to fix these landslides and highlighted the fact that most slippages are a result of steady rain rather than flooding and therefore do not qualify for Disaster Relief funding.

His presentation is on the SEATS website.

Members Reports

Matthew Christensen (Tumut Shire Council) reported that Tumut had received positive feedback from RDAF on Gocup Road

Ron Collins (NRMA) reported that NRMA Board has been re-elected without change. Alan Evans is Director for our region.

Colin McLean (RDASI) reported that second round for RDAF closes soon. RDA looking for stronger links between project submissions and State programs

Harvey Dinelli (Victorian Dept of Transport) highlighted Victorian submission to IA and also need to closely follow up on Port of Hastings

Cr Geoff Peterson (Goulburn Mulwaree Council) indicated that Beyond Nerriga MR 92 study funding announcement is eagerly awaited He also spoke about wind farms, fleet upgrades and regional waste issues which may all effect our transport infrastructure priorities.

Dom Figliomeni (Port Kembla Corporation) was thanked by SEATS Chairman Sue Whelan for organizing the Port Kembla tour on Thursday 24 November 2011.

He then highlighted \$1.5 billion upgrade of the Port, the outer harbour rail plan and the cooperation between Port Kembla Corporation and the University of Wollongong regarding rail infrastructure needs. He also spoke about the proposed concrete and biodiversity work being undertaken at the Port next year.

Cr Bob Stewart (Bombala Shire Council) requested SEATS support for a project worth \$10 - \$15 million which they are putting to Infrastructure Australia

Cr Brian Petschler (Kiama Municipal Council) indicated Kiama's delight at funding announcement for Princes Highway in the Kiama region and mentioned that SEATS support had been vital,

Phil Newham (Upper Lachlan Shire) indicated that Council was working with the MR 92 options. He also spoke about wind farms and 3 new power stations in the area.

Cr Martin Hughes (Cooma-Monaro Shire) gave special thanks to RMS (formerly RTA) for improvements to highway access sections at Pony Club Road and Micalago Road as well as the installation of profile edge and centre lines and wire rope improvements north of Bredbo on the Monaro Highway. State Member for Monaro has announced the commencement of a survey south of Williamsdale for a new south bound overtaking lane as the first step in the \$6 million Monaro Highway upgrades. CMSC is also supporting a proposal for the introduction of a commuter bus service between Cooma and Canberra commencing early in 2012..

Paul Stampton (South Gippsland Shire) mentioned that an economic study re Leongatha is to be done. Council extending rail trail and Murray Goulburn Cooperative using trucks powered by N Gas.

Cr Jeanette Harding (South Gippsland Shire) highlighted need to keep pushing for extension of R2R funds. She also highlighted the bad accident rate on the Bass Coast Highway.

Warren Sharpe (Eurobodalla Shire) gave an update on the National Roads Congress. He requested that all Councils and SEATS write to all political parties supporting continuation of R2R and also supporting recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution as per request from ALGA. He also recommended that all Councils get National Roads Congress communiqué into their Council Business Paper. These matters were agreed to by the meeting.

Ralf Kastan (Kastan Consulting) indicated that SEATS should write to Infrastructure Australia (IA) to ask how we can value add to their process and thus aid our member Councils in their preparation of submissions to IA. This was agreed by the meeting

Chris Vardon (SEATS) asked all members to check SEATS website under Current Projects to ensure information contained therein is up to date. He also indicated that in light of Mende Gorgievski presentation, SEATS needs to modify and improve our priority project template.

Matthew Christensen from Tumut Shire asked SEATS members to note that Warren Sharpe (Eurobodalla Shire and SEATS Executive member) had won the National IPWEA Public Works Leader of the Year Award 2011.

VIC ROADS and RTA REPORTS

Formal reports were sent with the business paper for the meeting. Harvey Dinelli representing VicRoads and David Corry and Brad Turner from RMS (Roads and Maritime Services formerly known as RTA) gave brief verbal updates and answered questions from the members present.

The RMS and VicRoads reports are attached at the end of this report.

VicRoads and RMS have agreed to send SEATS photos of some of our completed priority projects to enable a "success" story to be placed on the SEATS website.

Priority Project Reports

Current reports on the 2010 – 2013 Priority projects are attached for information

Next Meeting

The next meeting of SEATS will be held on 16 and 17 February 2012 and will be hosted Wellington Shire Council at Sale in Victoria. A Notice of meeting will be sent out in mid January 2011 which will give full details of the venue and accommodation options.

Some arrangement may be coordinated for some NSW delegates to travel by air to Melbourne. Further details will be given in January 2012.

SEATS REPORT dated 28 November 2011

Attachments:

RMS (formerly RTA) Report November 2011

VicRoads Report November 2011

Current Priority Projects Reports for November 2011

Roads and Maritime Services rEPORT FOR seats mEETING – November 2011

Roads & Maritime Services

- Roads & Maritime Services commenced operations as an entity on 1 November 2011. Peter Duncan has been appointed as the new Chief Executive.

picton Road

- The \$43.0 million program of safety improvements for Picton Road is continuing. A detailed community update identifying the works completed to date can be found by accessing the following link:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/picton_road_cu.html

- The Roads and Maritime Services is currently undertaking another detailed review of crash data to assist in the development of a suite of works that will spend the final \$10 million of the allocated funding. This program of works is expected to be completed by mid 2013.
- The Picton Road Corridor Strategy was finalised and published in April 2011. The strategy can be viewed on the Roads and Maritime Services website by accessing the following link:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/picton_road_corridor_strategy_april11.pdf

PRINCES HWY GERRINGONG upgrade – Mount Pleasant to toolijooa road

- The Review of Environmental Factors for the Gerringong upgrade was determined in November 2010.
- Prequalified Contractors were invited to submit proposals and three Contractors were invited to tender for the design and construction of the Gerringong Upgrade. Tenders closed in July 2011 and were assessed. On 25 October 2011, Fulton Hogan was announced as the successful company to undertake the project.
- During the tender assessment period, the Roads and Maritime Services in consultation with community members completed a review regarding the need for shared access roads. As a result of this process it was determined that 5 new access roads will be constructed. The location and design of the access roads will be determined in consultation with the community during the detailed design stage of the project.
- During the preparation of the detailed design, consultation will continue for design aspects such as property impacts, noise mitigation etc.
- Property acquisitions are underway and site investigations will take place as part of the detailed design process.

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/gerringong.html>

PRINCES HIGHWAY, FOXGROUND AND BERRY BYPASS – Toolijooa Road to Schofields Lane

- The Department of Planning has provided the Roads and Maritime Services with a list of director general's requirements to be addressed in the environmental assessment of the proposed Foxground and Berry Bypass upgrade.
- The Roads and Maritime Services is working on addressing these requirements in the preparation of the environmental assessment.
- RMS is working with the community in discussing options for the Bypass of Berry.

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/gerringong.html>

PRINCES HIGHWAY, BERRY TO BOMADERRY

- Planning for this proposal continues with the Roads and Maritime Services working to finalise a concept design for this project.

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/gerringong.html>

Princes Hwy Kinghorne St to Forest Rd, South Nowra

- The design for the 6.3km upgrade of the Princes Highway, South Nowra was approved in June 2011.
- The contract for the construction of the upgrade, which will provide for lanes along the highway between Kinghorne Street and Forest Road, was awarded in July 2011. Nace Civil Engineering will be completing the major construction which is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2011 and take approximately 2 years to complete.
- Preliminary construction work including the relocation of utilities continues, with major construction work expected to commence late October or early November 2011.
- A sod turning ceremony was held on 1 November 2011.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/princes_south_nowra.html

Princes Hwy victoria creek

- The NSW Government is funding a \$45 million upgrade of the Princes Highway between Narooma Road (the Old Princes Highway) and Corkhill Drive at Central Tilba, 13km south of Narooma.
- Major construction work is underway on the 3.2km highway upgrade. Seymour Whyte Constructions Pty Ltd has been contracted to build the upgrade which is scheduled to be completed by mid 2013.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/victoria_creek.html

Princes Hwy dignams creek

- The Roads and Maritime Services has announced the preferred corridor for the

proposed realignment of the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek. This corridor was on display for comment from December 2010 to February 2011.

- The Roads and Maritime Services is now investigating refinements to the preferred option following stakeholder feedback and recent geotechnical results. These investigations could include examining any potential opportunities to improve the proposal in the southern part of the alignment through a section of Kooraban National Park.
- Planning for this project continues with the Roads and Maritime Services seeking to develop a concept design for this project which is expected to be on display in 2012.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/princes_hway_dignams_ck.pdf

PRINCES HIGHWAY, TERMEIL CREEK

- The Roads and Maritime Services has announced the preferred corridor for the proposed realignment of the Princes Highway at Termeil Creek. This corridor was on display for comment from December 2010 until February 2011.
- The Roads and Maritime Services is currently undertaking environmental investigations for the preparation of an environmental assessment. This will consider comments made during the display period. It is anticipated that the subsequent environmental assessment will be available for community comment in November 2011.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/princes_hway_termeil_ck.pdf

Princes Hwy BEga bypass

- The Roads and Maritime Services has finalised the determination of the review of environmental factors (REF) for this project and has approval to proceed.
- Design refinements for the southern section of the project have been completed and in April/May 2011 community feedback on the design changes was invited.
- The submission period for the revised design has now closed and the submissions received are being considered.
- A supplementary REF was completed in July 2011
- Tenders for the works were called on 26 October 2011.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/bega_b_subs_report_dec10.pdf

Kings highway road safety project

- The Roads and Maritime Services has secured funding to realign the curves on the Kings Highway near Rotary Drive, about 2.4 kms from Batemans Bay. The work involves the correction of the horizontal and vertical alignments and the widening of the Kings Highway.
- The geometric deficiency of this section of the Kings Highway has resulted in a number

of crashes including 5 injuries and one fatality in 2006.

- The detailed design was finalised in March 2011 and construction is expected to be completed during the 2011/12 financial year.

**VICROADS
SEATS REPORT
NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING**

PLANNING

Hyland Highway Overtaking Lane

The Coalition Government made an election commitment to construct an overtaking lane on the Hyland Highway which runs between Traralgon and Yarram.

VicRoads is currently undertaking planning for the project. Consultation with key stakeholders including Wellington Shire Council, freight industry representatives and local community groups was carried out as part of the location selection process. A location between Lays Road and Campbells Road was agreed.

Strzelecki Highway Overtaking Lane

The Coalition Government made an election commitment to construct an overtaking lane on the Strzelecki Highway between Mirboo North and Leongatha. VicRoads has developed a proposal for an overtaking lane near Stubbers Lane and is currently organising a planning scheme amendment to reserve land required for the overtaking lane.

Sealing of Unsealed sections of the Omeo Highway

The Coalition Government made an election commitment to seal the unsealed sections of the Omeo Highway which runs between Omeo and Tallangatta on the Murray Valley Highway in North Eastern Victoria. This project is currently being investigated to determine the scope.

PROJECTS

Princes Highway Duplication -Traralgon to Sale

The upgrade is a joint Federal Government (\$140m) State Government (\$35m) project. The scope of the project, based on road safety priorities and extending existing duplication, includes:

- Intersection upgrades and construction of a raised median at Traralgon East
- Construction of duplication over most of the length between Traralgon East and Rosedale
- Curve realignment and duplication east of Rosedale
- Duplication and intersection improvements through Wurruk and across Sale Causeway

The Traralgon East section was opened to two lanes in each direction prior to Christmas 2010.

Works on the Wurruk to Sale section of the duplication by BMD Constructions commenced in January 2011. The majority of earthworks on the new carriageway are at subgrade level ready for the placement of the lower pavement material. The surcharge material is being removed on the embankment fills across the causeway ready for trimming of subgrade and verge construction. The Bridgeworks are continuing with beams placed on 15 out of 23 spans on the floodway structure between Thomson River and Flooding Creek. Construction of pile caps and columns are underway on Flooding Creek bridge. The Thomson River bridge is behind schedule due two flood events in July and August which restricted the construction of the pile caps in the Thomson River. Over the last month the river levels have dropped allowing the Contractor to recommence works. The works are expected to be completed October 2012

The proposed duplication between Traralgon East and Kilmany (west of Sale) is now the subject of an Environment Effects Statement process. The Minister for Planning has

determined that due to the likely impacts of the project on native vegetation of state and national significance an assessment through an EES process is required. Following public submissions, the EES Scoping Requirements are now finalised. A Technical Reference Group has been convened. A consultant, GHD, has been engaged to assist VicRoads in developing the EES. VicRoads and GHD are targeting to exhibit the EES document before Christmas, however this still subject to review by DPCD. An outcome from the EES process is anticipated by mid 2012.

Bass Highway Duplication Stage 6 - King Road to Woolmer Road

The remaining works adjacent to the township of Bass to complete stage 6 including the strengthening of the existing Bass River Bridge has been delayed by wet site conditions and is expected to be completed by November 2011.

Bass Highway Duplication Stage 7 – Woolmer Road to Phillip Island Road

The Woolmer Road to Phillip Island Road section, (\$39.8m) will provide a new 3km link road between the Bass Highway and a location approximately 2.5km along Phillip Island Road. This proposal will greatly improve traffic flows to and from Phillip Island and reduce the amount of traffic currently using the Anderson roundabout by 60%.

The design and construct contract was awarded on 28 October 2010 and works commenced on the ground in late January 2011. Significant earthworks have been undertaken on the main cuts in the vicinity of Phillip Island Road and the duplicated section between Woolmer Road and Coast Road. The works stopped due to wet site conditions over the winter and recommenced in late October. The project is expected to be completed by early 2013.

South Gippsland Highway – Sale to Longford (Cox's Bridge)

The project (\$56.9m) is located between the Thomson River and Sale Common which is a RAMSAR wetland site. All approvals for the project have been received.

The contract for the project has been awarded and site works commenced on the ground in November 2010. Bridge piling on the shorter of the two bridges (Cox's Bridge – 450 metres long) commenced in December. Cross heads have been completed and some beams have been placed on this structure and piling has commenced on the longer structure. Floods in late July and mid August stopped the works. Both road and bridge works have recommenced following the flooding. The project is expected to be completed by early 2013.

ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS

Princes Highway.

Stratford to Bairnsdale (\$4.344m)

A significant number of head-on crashes including a large proportion of fatalities have

occurred on the highway between Stratford and Bairnsdale. It is believed one of the major factors to the head-on crash trend in this section is the straight and monotonous nature of the road resulting in 'highway hypnosis' and fatigue issues. A project has been approved which includes enhanced centre line and edge line markings, treatments to make the driving task more 'interactive' and minimise the effects of the monotonous driving environment and a range of innovative treatment options Variable Message Signs, rumble strips and other unique roadside treatments.

A contract for the civil works has been advertised with works expected to commence in December 2011.

Mass Curve Treatments – Orbost to Cann River -74km (\$3.325m)

A significant number of run off road crashes have occurred on this section of the Princes Highway including fatalities. This section of the highway has an unforgiving roadside due to being heavily vegetated and mountainous terrain. A project has been approved and includes safety barriers, sealed shoulders, improved delineation and vegetation removal.

A contract for the works is expected to be advertised in December 2011 with works commencing in mid 2011.

Bunyip River to Traralgon (\$16.355m).

The 80 km length of duplicated freeway/highway between Bunyip River and Traralgon has a high concentration of run-off-road crashes. A project has been approved to remove roadside hazards and install wire rope safety barrier over most of this length. The contract for this work has been awarded with works expected to commence in mid November 2011.

Bairnsdale Township (\$2.677m)

Bairnsdale Township where a significant crash history exists and a project has been approved aimed at improving speed compliance. The treatments in this project include improved signage and line marking, physical kerbed outstand treatments, minor intersection improvements and other visual speed reduction measures.

Swan Reach to Kalimna - West of Lakes Entrance (\$2.158m).

A separate road safety project has been included for this section of the Princes Highway. This project includes installation of safety barriers (wire rope and guard fence), formation and shoulder widening and sealing and removal of roadside hazards. The works commenced in July and have progressed well and is expected to be completed by December 2011.

Sand Road Intersection (\$0.635m).

This project includes the installation of variable electronic speed zones for the Princes Highway that will operate on a casualty crash risk basis. This will provide credibility to freeway traffic inside and outside these periods. During higher risk periods (i.e. traffic volumes which relate to casualty crashes) the Princes Highway speed zone would be 80km/h and outside these periods the speed would be 100km/h. This provides the added advantage of maintaining efficiency and travel time for freight and

other road users outside the high risk periods. The contract for these works is currently underway and expected to be completed by December 2011.

South Gippsland Highway

Bena to Meenyan (\$7.135m). This road safety project includes the following works: installation of safety barriers (wire rope and guard fence), removal of roadside hazards, warning signs, guidepost/delineation upgrades and some isolated shoulder sealing to complete gaps.

The works commenced in February 2011 and are expected to be completed in March 2012.

PRINCES FREEWAY CLOSURE - MORWELL

- The Princes Freeway in Victoria was closed in both directions at Morwell after rainfall in early February caused some land movement.
- On the 5 and 6 February, 2011 a significant rain event caused a large amount of water to enter the Morwell Main Drain, located inside the boundary of International Power's Hazelwood coal mine. Following the rain, ground depressions and cracking was detected around the mine's northern boundary affecting all four lanes of the Princes Freeway, in both directions.

As a result, the freeway was closed on 10 February. Traffic is being diverted through the township of Morwell.

- The freeway was reopened to traffic from 22 September 2011 at its designated 110 km/h speed limit, with additional safety and water control works being completed.

WILSONS PROMONTORY ROAD CLOSURE

- Heavy rainfall, up to 370mm, on 22 March 2011 fell at Wilsons Promontory in South Gippsland causing numerous landslips and culvert failures. The flash flooding more importantly caused part of the Darby River Bridge on Wilson Promontory Road to be washed away. This stranded numerous tourists, motor vehicles and coaches.
- The permanent works on the Darby River Bridge involved reinstating both sides of the bridge. Minor realignment of the road and a retaining structure has been constructed at the major landslip site at Darby Saddle. Other minor retaining structures, landslip treatments and numerous culvert replacements have also been completed.
- The bridge and Park were reopened to the public for the September school holidays.

PRIORITY PROJECT AND REPORTING DELEGATE	CURRENT POSITION	NEXT STEP
Port Kembla Upgrade PKPC	Work commenced on the reclamation of approximately 7 – 8 hectares in the outer harbour. 5 hectares will be made available to Cement Australia for their project	Completion of the reclamation and possible berth construction
Picton Road RTA		
Princes Highway – Gerringong-Bomaderry RTA		
Princes Highway – South Nowra RTA		
Kings Highway – Batemans Bay-Braidwood Eurobodalla Shire Council RTA		
Princes Highway – Victoria Creek RTA		
Princes Highway – Dignams Creek RTA		
Gocup Road – Tumut-South Gundagai Tumut Shire Council	The NSW Government has committed up to \$5M over 5 years for works on the road. If Council's RDAF application is successful, the allocations from years 4 and 5 would be brought forward to provide \$5M over the 3 year matching period.	Await the outcome of the next RDAF application by Council
Princes Highway – Traralgon-Sale VicRoads		
Gippsland Logistics Precinct (Morwell) Latrobe City Council		

South Gippsland Highway VicRoads Bass Coast and Sth Gippsland Shire Councils	Upgrade works have been completed or have been addressed along most of the South Gippsland Highway within the South Gippsland Shire. Works still required along the "Black Spur" and Grassy Spur" sections of the highway.	To pursue VicRoads with regard to major road alignments, road widening, shoulder sealing and other road improvements as may be required between Leongatha and Welshpool. This includes the missing link for the Great Southern Rail Trail which will use the former highway alignment once the new highway works have been completed between Leongatha and Foster.
Bass Highway Duplication VicRoads Bass Coast Shire Council		
Bass Highway – Anderson- Leongatha VicRoads South Gippsland Shire Council	Pursue VicRoads to upgrade this highway to include 2.0 metre sealed shoulders and passing lanes.	VicRoads are putting together a bid to upgrade the highway to a B-class road.
Koo Wee Rup Road (Pakenham Bypass to South Gippsland Highway) VicRoads Sth Gippsland Shire Council	Pursue VicRoads to upgrade this highway to include 2.0 metre sealed shoulders and passing lanes.	N/A
Tooradin-Baxter Road (South Gippsland Highway to Peninsular Freeway) VicRoads		
Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Route VicRoads Sth Gippsland Shire Council	Council has approved the route corridors for the Leongatha heavy vehicle by-pass.	The next step for the Leongatha heavy vehicle bypass route is to commence detail route and intersection design with VicRoads. There has been direct lobbying to Peter Ryan (correspondence sent May 2011) regarding the alternate route. A petition was also sent to Mr Ryan with a petition from the Leongatha Community.
Port of Hastings Port of Hastings Corporation		

Cross Border Issues (includes timber roads, heavy vehicle and regulation issues) Bombala, Tumut, Cooma-Monaro and Upper Lachlan Shire Councils		

**Victorian School
Bus System
(study complete,
advocate for
access)
East Gippsland
Shire Council**

1. Post School students still do not have "as of right travel" on school buses.

- Currently 30 post school students in East Gippsland are accessing spare seats, however access is only guaranteed on a term by term basis - students are required to apply each term.
- Many of the East Gippsland school buses are full to capacity and have no spare seats.

2. The Gippsland School Bus Flexibility Report was finalised in December 2010 by Dept of Transport (DoT) - this is an internal Departmentt of Transport document.

3. Access to spare seats

- Gippsland appears to be the only region in Victoria that allows access to spare seats, for post school students
- Post school student "as or right travel" still requires high level advocacy to embed into the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's School Bus Policy.

4. Better Use of School Buses in downtime

- DOT Bus Operator Contract Review 2009 – 2010.

It is understood contracts were rolled over and

<p>MR92 beyond Nerriga (study of alternative routes)</p> <p>Shoalhaven City, Palerang, Goulburn Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Councils</p> <p>RTA</p>		
<p>Caulfield-Dandenong rail triplification</p> <p>City of Casey</p>		
<p>Maldon-Dombarton rail line</p>		
<p>Port Kembla P C Barton Highway</p>		
<p>Bega Bypass</p> <p>RTA</p>		
<p>Delegate River Bridge</p> <p>RTA and Bombala Shire Council</p>		
<p>Bibbenluke-Cathcart</p> <p>Bombala Shire Council</p>		
<p>Lang Lang Bypass</p> <p>VicRoads</p> <p>VicRoads</p>		
<p>Barton Highway</p> <p>Yass Valley</p>		
<p>Port Anthony (Barry Beach) South Gippsland Shire Council;</p>	<p>100 metres of warf has been constructed with another 100 to follow along with a completion of the hardstand area.</p> <p>The Victorian Government made an election commitment of \$2 million to the project and the Deputy Premier has publically stated that the port will be used as a bulk port. The proponent recently lodged a Planning application for 3 very large fuel storage tanks to store 24 million litres of fuel tanks with more to follow.</p> <p>The roads currently into the area are quite limited and will require significant safety and capacity upgrades to deal with current and future expansion.</p>	<p>Ongoing lobbying with Victorian Government over the transport issue.</p> <p>The State Government has formed an inter-departmental committee which includes Council representation which will be meeting to discuss issues regarding the Port Development.</p>

<p>Poowong Intersection / Roundabout</p>	<p>VicRoads to upgrade intersection to improve safety and reduce confusion - currently a channelisation which resembles a roundabout. The road rules for a channelisation are different from those that apply to a roundabout.</p>	<p>There has been direct lobbying with VicRoads (correspondence sent November 2010) with reply stating this requires to be at region wide / State level. Has been tabled as an Agenda item for the VicRoads / Gippsland Municipalities Cluster Forum for 19 August 2011.</p> <p>There has been direct lobbying to Peter Ryan (correspondence sent May 2011) regarding the alternate route. A petition was also sent to Mr Ryan with a petition from the Leongatha Community.</p>

