

SEATS PRIORITY PROJECTS 2010

Strategic Study Projects

Cross border issues (includes timber roads, heavy vehicle and regulation issues)

Estimated cost of study: \$200,000

A study to identify policy, regulatory and transport network issues that have an impact on the efficient and effective cross border movement of freight and to propose solutions.

The study to include identifying and proposing solutions to government, to eliminate irregularities in government policies and regulations, to allow vehicles to be manufactured, configured and loaded in such a way to be legal in all states.

The study also to investigate and evaluate the adequacy of the local and regional road network within the SEATS region to service the harvesting of timber from public and private forests and the delivery of logs to places of production, processing or ports. The study will be used to develop a strategic policy to assist government (local, state & national) to formulate a funding formula to develop and maintain the network of rural/regional timber roads and to formulate consistent cross border policies and regulations.

Victorian School Bus System

To make changes to the Victorian school bus system to allow the carrying of other fare paying passengers. The study has been completed and has Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) and Gippsland Local government Network (GLGN) support. Under the School Bus Flexibility Project, trials have been conducted in Gippsland over the last two years. Advocacy for the adoption of eight recommendations, arising from the trials, for the State Government to streamline access to school buses for rural Victorians to better facilitate carriage of the general public, post secondary students and access to school buses is required.

MR92 Beyond Nerriga (Study of alternative routes)

Estimated Cost of Study: \$200,000

Crossing of this Illawarra escarpment (800m) south of Sydney is only possible in a limited number of places, with the crossings having varying degrees of suitability for heavy vehicles. Shoalhaven City Council, the NSW RTA with financial assistance from the Federal government will by 2011 have completed a crossing based on Main Road 92 from Nowra on the coast to Nerriga on the southern tablelands. To complete this major network improvement to connect to the highway corridors beyond Nerriga is now required.