

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.

Executive Summary

South East Australian Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS) Conference held in Canberra hosted by Canberra Airport.

SEATS held its quarterly meeting at Canberra Airport on the 9th & 10th November 2017. Canberra Airport has long been a member of SEATS and a great supporter of the work undertaken in identifying and advocating for vital projects that will improve transport infrastructure, stimulate economic development and promote prosperity across this rapidly growing region.

The busy meeting was held over two days and Delegates Dinner was well attended by over 40 delegates/members and guests from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT.

The Theme of the Conference was “Transport Demand in the South East NSW Region to Progress Economic Development” There were a number of stimulating presentations and discussions and a “walking tour” of the Airport.

During the meeting an overview of “What’s happening at Canberra Airport and the role of transport links with freight and tourism” was provided by Mr Noel McCann, Director of Planning at Canberra Airport and a presentation received from Stephen McFallen, Senior Experimental Scientist from the CSIRO on “Unlocking options for efficient logistics infrastructure in Australian agriculture”. Other presentations included “Increasing the economic return from domestic and international visitation to Canberra and the South East” from Jonathan Kobas from Visit Canberra and “Driving the growth of the visitor economy in southern NSW and linkages with Canberra” presented by Mr Shane O’Leary from “Destination Southern NSW”. This was followed by a panel discussion on “What are the key tourist transport connections that need to be improved to connect the South East.” SEATS was also pleased to welcome Dr Mike Kelly MP, Member for Eden-Monaro, who outlined his vision to unleash the potential of the Region under four pillars of an economic strategy bringing together a number of critical projects of national significance. These presentations will all be available on the SEATS Website shortly.

During the course of the Ordinary General Meeting there was amongst other business, a presentation on the Victorian Regional Roads Strategy and the development of a new Freight Plan for Victoria, a presentation by Baw Baw Shire CEO Alison Leighton on the Gippsland Regional Roads Group priority projects (\$160m), which had been endorsed by the Gippsland Local Government Network and now have been endorsed in principle by SEATS, a report on the progress of the SEATS Petition launched in November, an update from Mr Tim Hansen from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulators Office and an interesting presentation on “Automated Vehicles in Rural Areas” from Graham McCabe from GHD.

The guest speaker for the dinner was Brendan Smyth, Act Commissioner for International Engagement. Brendan, a well-known identity of the Canberra area was a former ACT Government MLA for over 18 years and he now works in promoting Canberra as an education, tourism and investment destination.

Another highlight of the evening was an "Inspirational Leadership Award" made to two long serving SEATS delegates, Mrs Sue Whelan OAM and Mr Harvey Dinelli. Both have made a very significant contribution to this Region through their work and leadership in SEATS. Sue in her 33 years as a dedicated Mayor, Councillor and community leader has vigorously promoted the work of SEATS and been such a strong advocate at all Government levels to deliver vital projects of major benefit across the Region. She has left a proud, life-long legacy and SEATS sincerely thanks her and wishes her and husband John good health and happiness for the future. Congratulations and sincere thanks to Harvey on his great commitment to the SEATS network and the improvement of the transport infrastructure that enhances economic opportunities and growth and makes the movement of goods and people across the region more efficient and safer.

During the course of the two day meeting reports were received from Transport for Victoria, VicRoads and RMS NSW, along with reports from the visiting delegates and members outlining developments and the progress of priority projects. These reports will appear in detail in the Minutes of the Meeting to follow shortly. A number of new delegates were warmly welcomed to the meeting and two new members have been invited to become part of the SEATS network in the future.

There are serious challenges and serious changes happening in the freight industry at this time and managing road networks is really beyond individual local government entities and must be approached from a Regional perspective. These challenges include the growth of new industries and markets, the development of freight corridors, profitability, safety, regulations and sustainability. This region is rich in resources, natural assets and huge opportunities. SEATS will continue to be proactive in making submissions to State and Federal Government on strategy planning, identifying and delivery of vital projects and providing support to Councils when funding opportunities arise.

SEATS has now confirmed the hosting arrangements for 2018 and is now looking for hosts for 2019. South Gippsland Shire and Bass Coast Shire will jointly host the 14th & 15th February 2018 meeting. The May 17th & 18th Meeting will be hosted by Shellharbour City Council and Baw Baw Shire will host the 16th & 17th August 2018 Meeting. The November 2018 Meeting will be hosted by RMS Southern in Wollongong. Thank you once again for your support.

SEATS Chair Cr Patricia White provided a report on her attendance at the National Roads Conference in Perth and she acknowledged a busy and informative meeting in Canberra, thanking Canberra Airport for hosting the event. GHD and NSW Ports were also sincerely thanked for their support of the Conference through their catering sponsorship. She wished all delegates and SEATS members a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting in Victoria in February 2018.