



Canberra Airport transport links



Phil Price's kinetic sculpture, left foreground, is one of 14 commissioned public sculptures at Canberra Airport designed to show an airport can be more than just a piece of national transport infrastructure.

Canberra Airport's growth and future plans greatly impressed delegates at SEATS' November meeting, hosted by Canberra Airport. A guided tour was followed with a fascinating presentation by the Airport's Director of Planning Noel McCann.

However it was the constraints of transport infrastructure between Canberra Airport and the surrounding region that focussed delegates.

Mr McCann said direct flights from Canberra Airport to Asia and New Zealand bring exciting opportunities for the region. 'They are already growing inbound tourism but freight exports so far had been slow to take advantage of the expanded access to international markets that international flights have brought.'

He said Canberra Airport's advantages as an international freight hub include no night-time curfew, significant runway capacity, tarmac-side warehouses already there, land for development, and easy access to improved road infrastructure. Most importantly, it provides an express service straight into Singapore, the heart of Asia.

'Freight to Singapore and New Zealand to date has been mostly diplomatic freight rather

Some Canberra Airport facts...

- ◆ Privately owned. Terry Snow of Canberra Airport Pty Ltd purchased the 99-year lease of Canberra Airport's 440 hectares for \$66m in 1998
- ◆ Snow has invested about \$2b in the site; Australian Government \$28m
- ◆ Building of new world class terminal started 2009, completed 2014. Capacity 8 million people p.a
- ◆ Singapore Airlines since September 2016; Qatar Airways from February 2018
- ◆ Inbound international flights predominately target tourism, investment and education (international connections lift the profile of local unis); outbound targets include business services and freight of goods and produce
- ◆ Airport land includes Brindabella Business Park, Fairbairn Business Park, and the Majura Park shopping precinct
- ◆ Canberra Airport owns all infrastructure within the Airport fence boundary
- ◆ Currently 11,000 people working on Canberra Airport site. By 2034, 34,000 are predicted.

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GRRG priority projects endorsed

The extensive work by the Gippsland Regional Road Group (GRRG) in nominating 28 key priority projects to improve freight movements on local roads in the Gippsland Region was highly praised at SEATS recent Canberra meeting. The meeting endorsed in principle the GRRG Road Network Priorities.

New Baw Baw Shire Council CEO Alison Leighton who presented the results described it as 'a fantastic piece of work', adding that she had never witnessed this level of collaboration before.

The six councils in the Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN) formed the GRRG to look at the road network across the whole Gippsland region. They identified regional issues impacting on efficient and effective freight movements within and through the region, focussing on the local road network and its links to the State and National Road Network.

The GRRG consulted extensively with its six member councils and relevant government departments, while the *SEATS Strategic Transport Network for South-Eastern Australia* provided the framework.

The end result is 28 costed and prioritised investment ready projects for funding on either a regional or individual basis. The high priority projects total \$14.3m, medium priority projects \$43m, a total of \$67m. These would improve significantly freight movement and safety across the Gippsland region.

A copy of the *Gippsland Regional Road Group Road Network Priorities* is available on SEATS' website.

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than produce,' Mr McCann said. 'We have the capacity to do much more. 'Ninety-five per cent of air freight is moved through passenger aircraft, and each Singapore Airlines' aircraft has a 20t cargo capacity, so the potential's huge.'

Airport staff continue to talk with rural producers across south-eastern NSW and the Gippsland about opportunities. He said this potential is being held back by transport infrastructure constraints in the region linking to Canberra Airport. With the road network, he mentioned:

- With Jervis Bay MR 92 via Braidwood
- Links to outer Sydney
- Links to north-east Victoria
- Brown Mountain – Snowy Mountains Hwy
- Clyde Mountain – Kings Highway.

Mr McCann said Canberra Airport has also supported a Very Fast Train between Sydney and Canberra since 1998, as well as the expansion of light rail in Canberra, including future links to Canberra Airport.

He told delegates it is easier for producers in south-east Victoria to access Canberra Airport than Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne.

SEATS Chairman speaks...



Presenters at SEATS February meeting at Canberra Airport included Stephen Fallan of CSIRO, left, Shane O'Leary of Destination Southern NSW, Cr Jonathan Kobas of Visit Canberra and Noel McCann of Canberra Airport, with SEATS Chairman Patricia White, centre.

February's meeting at Canberra Airport was a real buzz with some fascinating presentations around the theme of 'Transport demand to progress economic development in the South East Region'. Many of those presentations are outlined in this newsletter.

We enjoyed great networking and saw more delegates than we've seen for a while.

A big thank you to Canberra Airport for hosting it and to GHD and NSW Ports for their catering sponsorship. Canberra Airport has long been a SEATS member and a great supporter of the work we do. Thorough preparation by their team resulted in a highly informative, productive and engaging gathering.

It was enlightening to see the tremendous growth and development in and around Canberra Airport which has resulted in impressive world-class facilities with significant opportunities for future expansion.

It was good to meet several new representatives, some of them old SEATS friends, and to welcome some new members.

We welcomed the Member for Eden Monaro Dr Mike Kelly who outlined his vision of an economic strategy to unleash the south-east region's potential. The renewable energy industry was one of his strategy's pillars.

Our dinner speaker ACT Commissioner for International Engagement Brendan Smyth spoke about Canberra as an education, tourism and investment destination.

This meeting again highlighted how much we value the close relationships SEATS has with VicRoads, Transport for Victoria and Roads and Maritime Services of NSW.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting in Inverloch which will be hosted jointly by South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Cr Patricia White
Chairman*

TraNSIT is a potential game changer

CSIRO's comprehensive TraNSIT tool was developed to map freight movements in the agricultural industries and analyse the best options for infrastructure investment. It is now being developed for the broader freight task.

Steve McFallan of CSIRO told SEATS delegates in Canberra that its Transport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TraNSIT) was developed to comprehensively map freight movements for over 30 agricultural commodities and for the forestry industry. That was mainly due to the Federal Government's White Paper initiative to identify more efficient transport infrastructure for the agricultural industry.

'It's the largest and most detailed logistics tool ever developed in Australia. It provides new insights into the freight task, including bottlenecks and inefficiencies,' he said. 'For example, it allows us to see what might happen if we change one factor, such as using higher productivity vehicles. We've gone through a huge number of steps to get to this stage, including extensive consultation and validation with industry and we have confidence in the model.'

Some SEATS delegates were excited by the potential it offered if it could be developed for freight other than agriculture, anticipating it could be used to help build better business cases for infrastructure proposals.

Mr McFallan said TraNSIT has this potential to better evaluate options for other freight taking into account both soft (e.g. poli-



TraNSIT was initially developed to map the movements of northern Australian beef in 2013 but has since been used in many other agricultural industries. Photo courtesy CSIRO.

cy and regulation) and hard infrastructure (bridge, roads, rail, hubs, processing plant).

'Applying it to other commodities relies on the same principles but the model would require the input of really good data along the whole supply chain,' he said. 'If you wanted to change an intersection, for example, it could provide freight flow impacts including moves onto other roads, changed freight paths, and productivity gains.'

Applications over the last 18 months include the Northern Australia Beef Roads Programme, investigations into freight hubs for the Australian Rail Track Corporation on the impacts of shifting agricultural freight from road to rail, and determining the cost impact of flooding around Forbes.

TraNSIT is being developed to include sea and air transport and more detailed transport cost models. Current projects also include in South East Asia for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and identifying bottlenecks in freight flows for Toowoomba Regional Council.

His presentation is on SEATS' webpage.

Two SEATS delegates recognised

Sue Whelan OAM and Harvey Dinelli were recognised at the Canberra meeting with an Inspirational Leadership Award for their significant contributions to SEATS over many years.

Sue has been a vigorous advocate of SEATS' work at all levels of government to deliver vital infrastructure projects across the region, particularly when former SEATS chairman.

Harvey continues his great commitment to the SEATS network and the need to improve transport infrastructure to enhance economic opportunities across the region.

SEATS circulates Princes Hwy petition

SEATS' petition calling for the Federal Government to include the Princes Highway from Sale to Wollongong in the National Highway Network has been circulated to all Councils and councillors for their endorsement.

Several Councils have already done so and placed it in Visitor Information Centres for feedback from tourists over the summer holidays.

The petition calls for urgent and ongoing funding for the Highway and for it to be recognised as a major freight and tourist route.

Autonomous vehicles not science fiction

A fascinating presentation by Graham McCabe of GHD Transportation highlighted that self-driving or autonomous vehicles are no longer the stuff of science fiction. The first full self-driving vehicle went on the market in September 2017.

He explained there are five levels of autonomous vehicles. The first is where the driver still controls most functions but a specific function is done automatically by the car, such as ABS, cruise control and power steering. The fifth is fully autonomous buses on a mapped network. Self-driving vehicles will be electric.

By 2020/21, electric vehicles will cost the same as petrol and diesel vehicles (including leasing and costs such as maintenance). By 2040, car fleets will all

be electric. Employment implications include more upskilled servicing with mechanics also needing electrician-type skills. Interestingly in the USA, BP is installing electric car chargers in its service stations. With charging taking a little longer than filling a fuel tank, those stations will incorporate a lounge-café environment.

What became clear was that driverless vehicles will most likely only be in metropolitan and urban areas because of the detailed mapping, software required.

He does not see long interstate haulage and local deliveries out to someone's farm going electric in the near future.

His presentation is on SEATS' website.

Road links key to tourism growth in south-east

Canberra recently received two 'gongs' – as Australia's most popular destination, and as the third best city in the world to visit in 2018.

Tourism's value to the ACT economy has grown by about 50% over the last few years, with Canberra Airport a major driver of that growth. Key to Canberra Visit Canberra Director Jonathon Kobus said improved access to the regions around Canberra was vital to continue that growth.

Destination Southern NSW

General Manager Shane O'Leary said his new organisation, created by the NSW Government, embraces eight local government areas around the ACT. Its aim is to double the value of the visitor economy in this area by 2020 with Canberra seen as a major market.

A panel discussion highlighted the need to improve the road links between Canberra and the surrounding areas, into outer Sydney and into north-east Victoria.

What is SEATS?

South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) identifies and advocates for vital projects to improve transport infrastructure and connectivity and stimulate economic development in southeastern Australia. It is a strong independent partnership of councils, industry, government authorities and other organisations from Wollongong to Dandenong.

Illawarra interstate flights

Regional airline operator JetGo began regular passenger flights between Illawarra Regional Airport (also known as Albion Park), Melbourne and Brisbane on 31 October. The Airport is owned and operated by Shellharbour City Council.

One stays, the other goes

Once the new bridge is built at Batemans Bay, the preferred option proposes demolishing the existing bridge of which there are many examples in NSW. While at Nowra, once the new bridge is built the old 139 year-old bridge which is unique will probably stay and be used as a pedestrian and cycle thoroughfare.

SEATS meetings

2018

15-16 February: Jointly hosted by South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires at RACV Resort, Inverloch

17-18 May: Hosted by Shellharbour City Council

16-17 August: Hosted by Baw Baw Shire

8-9 November: Hosted by RMS Southern in Wollongong

SEATS Executive

Chairman Cr Patricia White (Shoalhaven), **Deputy Chair** Cr Marianne Pelz (East Gippsland),

Secretary Cr Graeme Middlemiss (Latrobe), **Treasurer:** Mark Burnett (East Gippsland).

Victorian representatives: Cr Keith Cook (Baw Baw) Cr Jeremy Rich (South Gippsland), Cr Clare Le Serve (Bass Coast).

NSW representatives: Greg Pullen (Shoalhaven), Cr Marianne Saliba (Shellharbour), vacancy.

Wharf extension to welcome cruise ships



Artist's impression of a cruise ship at the extended Eden Wharf. Courtesy NSW Department of Industry

Waterway Constructions was awarded the marine structures contract for the Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension project and will start work March 2018.

Dredging has been completed and scour protection con-

tinues. The project will allow Eden to benefit from the booming cruising industry. It should be completed in 2019, jointly funded by NSW (\$32m) and Australian (\$10m) Governments and Bega Valley Shire Council (\$2m).