



## NOTICE OF SEATS MEETINGS 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018 Baw Baw Shire Council.

Located adjacent to Victoria's capital city, Melbourne, Baw Baw Shire is one of Victoria's fastest growing municipalities. Our close proximity to Melbourne allows easy access for work or relaxation with the Princes Highway, freeways and V/Line allowing direct access into Melbourne's CBD, Docks, Tullamarine and Avalon Airports and suburbs. Baw Baw Shire is known for innovation in manufacturing, design and agribusiness and is home to a major dairy sector and some of Australia's leading hydroponics and agribusiness companies.

With pristine rivers, clean air, rolling green hills, snowfields and a population of close to 50,000 Baw Baw Shire offers an attractive lifestyle with a mixture of country and urban living. Good quality roads, natural gas, reticulated water and communication networks provide all the services necessary to enjoy the benefits of living and working in a peri-urban environment.

A highlight of the dinner will be a Political Panel comprising Politicians, who will be available for questions. ***If you would like to attend please contact SUE WHELAN - 0414 895 324***



## FOCUS ON PRINCES HIGHWAY SAFETY AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Next on the hit list is the section of the Princes Highway between Sale and Wollongong. Mr. Chester M.P met with South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) Executive Officer Sue Whelan (left) and Chair Patricia White (centre) at Parliament House in June to support the SEATS petition to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael McCormack for urgent and on-going funding to upgrade sections of the Princes Highway between Sale and Wollongong. At the meeting Patricia handed over the SEATS Petition on the Princes Highway and discussed the way forward

to funding the upgrade of the Highway through the SEATS region, as well as the escarpment crossings. Road safety is close to the heart of Gippsland MP Darren Chester.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland has secured record roads funding to improve safety for locals, visitors and heavy vehicle users. The Federal Government was investing heavily in road safety across Gippsland, with work being undertaken along the Princes Highway, Great Alpine Road, Monaro Highway, Hyland Highway and South Gippsland Highway. Mr. Chester will continue to work with local communities and road safety groups like SEATS to make sure we have the safest road network possible. SEATS appreciates the allocation in 2017, by the Federal Government of 5 million dollars for the Princes Highway Corridor Strategy and SEATS looks forward to working in consultation with the Government on this Strategy.

## SHELLHARBOUR - SEATS MEETING

Cr Marianne Saliba, Mayor of Shellharbour City Council, welcomed members to the SEATS meeting which was held in the new Council Administration Centre. Shellharbour City Council is the third oldest municipality in NSW but one of the youngest cities officially becoming a city in 1997. The new Council administration centre was a \$57M project and is a magnificent building, with the majority of the ground floor for community use. SEATS Executive sends a special Thank You to Shellharbour Council for hosting SEATS.





## **South Batemans Bay Link Road intersection Princes Highway**



Eurobodalla Council will complete construction of the South Batemans Bay Link Road before the end of 2018 at a cost of approximately \$10 million (NSW government funding). The new bypass is yet to be connected to the Princes Highway, with a locked gate at the western end.

The bypass will not serve its intended purpose until the connection is made with the highway.

The RMS needs to construct the highway upgrade at south Batemans Bay and a new intersection with the South Batemans Bay Link Road. There is an urgent need to address the high crash history on the highway and complete the bypass connection to enable over \$800 million worth of proposed development. The RMS has already undertaken all preliminary design work and chosen a preferred solution. The bypass

will provide an alternative route for traffic to bypass the Batemans Bay CBD and Beach Road and will deliver significant and much needed relief to congestion and amenity issues.

This project aligns with the regional development priorities of broadening the region's economic base through provision of safe and enabling transport infrastructure. The project is listed within the Far South Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy as a key transport project for our region.

## **Executive Officers Update**

Sue Whelan has been busy with our Victorian SEATS Members, Vic Roads and Transport Victoria. It was a productive meeting with all adding great information to our strategic documents. NSW members will also have the opportunity to meet with Sue. Sue has also met with our website designer and we hope to have the new website up and running soon. Be sure to check it out. The Agenda for our Baw Baw meeting will be out shortly, please contact Sue Whelan if you wish to attend



## **Media Releases:**

### **IPWEA NSW**

2018 Local Roads Congress - Councils urge action on road safety

Councils need to take immediate action to address the horrific road safety toll. That's the key message coming out of the NSW Local Roads Congress held in Sydney on 4 June 2018. And they are going to need the help of the NSW and Australian Governments to make a real difference.

Councils and experts from across NSW were joined by the President of Local Government NSW Linda Scott and Members of Parliament from both sides to develop a way to lower the road toll across NSW. With 392 deaths and more than 12,000 serious injury crashes in 2017 in NSW alone, and the trend going in the wrong direction, the Congress is calling for extra measures to turn the road toll trend around.

Presenting at the Congress, Minister for Roads, Maritime, and Freight Melinda Pavey, MP highlighted the new \$125M Saving Lives on Country Roads Program as a significant step forward and called for collaboration between all levels of government. The Minister also confirmed the LG Road Safety Program through to 2021.

IPWEA NSW President Warren Sharpe OAM called on the NSW Government to build on the excellent work being done in partnership with IPWEA (NSW), LGNSW and councils.

"Almost 90 per cent of NSW roads are under the control of councils. We're urging all councils to identify the most effective actions in their own community by developing road safety plans. To do this, they need skilled engineers and technical officers so IPWEA (NSW) has developed new guidelines. Nearly two-thirds of councils now have trained road safety auditors provided through a partnership between IPWEA (NSW) and the NSW Government. We're calling on the remaining councils to take advantage of this opportunity", Mr Sharpe said.

"The NSW Government's transport funding programs provide a once in a generation opportunity for councils to make a real difference to road safety and freight efficiency on local road networks", Mr Sharpe added.

"Despite this, our research clearly shows that communities in the bush need additional ongoing financial support. We've put the case that Federal Assistance Grants should be re-distributed to regional NSW with city councils able to sustain their income by rating high density development vertically. Any re-distributed funding must be tied to roads", Mr Sharpe said.

The Opposition agrees. Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, Maritime, and Freight, Jodi MacKay, MP and Shadow Minister for Local Government Peter Primrose MLC, were united in their support of the redistribution of FAG funding at the Congress.

IPWEA (NSW) Roads & Transport Directorate Manager, Mick Savage, outlined the importance of additional funding in the bush.

"Rural areas produce the food and resources we all rely on in the city. A million dollars a year extra at Moree or Griffith spent on their local road network just means so much more, and when two-thirds of all fatalities are occurring in regional NSW, it just makes sense to provide greater support in our regional areas to lower the road toll", Mr Savage said.

The Congress also heard from Dr John Crozier, Trauma Chair, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, who left no doubt as to the impacts of road crashes. In a confronting presentation, he outlined an 'average day' in a hospital emergency ward, including that for every serious injury recorded, there were an additional seven presentations to hospitals from road crashes.

NSW Police, Australian Trucking Association, Centre for Road Safety, State Emergency Services, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the Newell Highway Taskforce all backed further measures to address improved road safety and transport and road worker safety. Mayor of Parkes, Ken Keith OAM, further called on Councils to develop new cadet Engineers to grow skilled professionals of the future from their own towns.

NSW Staysafe Committee Chair Greg Aplin, MP wrapped up the Congress outlining recent successes including compulsory minimum driver training for young drivers but highlighted speeding, drink and drug driving, fatigue and driver distraction as remaining road safety challenges.

Delegates adopted a communique calling for the development of a sustainable and more equitable funding model to look after roads, target road safety and open up local road network to more efficient transport to better service our community and drive the NSW economy forward.

*Ends: - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

## **GIPPSLAND RAIL LINE UPGRADE EARLY WORKS ON TRACK**

Early works are progressing for the \$530 million Gippsland Rail Line Upgrade, under the \$1.75 billion Regional Rail Revival package funded by the Australian and Victorian governments.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael McCormack said funding has been provided to upgrade drainage and improve safety by installing boom gates, bells, flashing lights and axle counters at level crossings along the line.

"The Regional Rail Revival package, including the Gippsland Rail Line Upgrade, is protecting the future of regional communities and businesses by investing in regional Victoria's 1,757 kilometres of rail track, improving connections to jobs, education and health services," Mr McCormack said.

"Regional Victoria contributes over \$72 billion to the economy annually, is responsible for nearly a third of the state's exports, is home to a third of the state's small businesses and attracts more than 14 million tourists each year – it's projects like this that support the region's economy in the long term."

Victorian Minister for Public Transport and Major Projects Jacinta Allan said the package of works would improve the reliability and safety of the Gippsland rail corridor.

"Early works will improve drainage and upgrade level crossings between Sale and Bairnsdale and install axle counters at level crossings to improve train detection between Pakenham and Traralgon – boosting safety for motorists, passengers and staff along the line."

"We're getting on with these vital upgrades, which will deliver more trains, more often and boost the reliability of services – so passengers can plan their trip and their life with greater certainty."

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester said the Gippsland Rail Line Upgrade would also deliver duplicated track and signalling upgrades – as well as several station upgrades along the corridor – to boost reliability and enable extra services to Gippsland.

"The regional network currently caters for some of Victoria's fastest growing municipalities and now carries about 19.3 million passengers a year," Mr Chester said. "The Gippsland corridor has seen significant increases in patronage over recent years, with further growth forecast over the next decade."

"These works are estimated to create up to 400 new jobs in the Latrobe Valley, so this project is a major win for the region."

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said the investment would bring transport and employment benefits for people in Gippsland.

"These long-awaited improvements are not just welcome news for local passengers, they're also good for local jobs – creating work during construction, better connecting locals to employment opportunities and making it easier for people to come to Gippsland."

The Australian and Victorian Governments are jointly funding the \$530 million Gippsland Rail Line Upgrade, which includes the \$95 million Avon River bridge replacement.



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