

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 – February 2014

The quarterly meeting of SEATS was held on 20 and 21 February 2014 at Paynesville in Victoria.

The meeting was attended by about 35 delegates each day. SEATS members were welcomed by Cr Mark Reeves the Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council who hosted the meeting. Cr Reeves indicated that East Gippsland Shire Council believes that SEATS is an important part of their function and that membership of SEATS has been beneficial to their Shire. The Shire is very reliant on transport services and this will only grow as the Shire is amongst the biggest and fastest growing Shires in Victoria.

East Gippsland Shire Council has been a valued member of SEATS for many years. It is encouraging to learn that they are keen to continue and expand their role with SEATS with Gordon Charles now the Treasurer of SEATS and cr Marianne Pelz being a member of the SEATS Executive.

Cross Border Economic Study

At the executive meeting it was agreed that following some minor changes and alterations the Cross Border Study Report would be circulated to key stakeholders including State and Federal Ministers and Members, Local Government and industry. It was noted there was interest in the final report by Victorian Department of Transport.

It was also determined that a number of CD's should be made of the Report and sent to all relevant Ministers, Opposition Shadow Ministers, parliamentarians , Mayors and other interested personnel such as Departmental Officials.

It would be encouraging if one of our member Councils could copy the report onto about 50 CD's and send them to the Executive Officer. Please advise if you could undertake this task.

Beyond Nerriga Route Options Study

Progress report February 2014

At the last SEATS meeting on 7 November in Queanbeyan, Graeme Robinson provided an update report on the beyond Nerriga Route Options Study. He provided information on the project objectives, the methodology used and the route options being evaluated. The route options are:

- Southern route – Nerriga, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Yass
- Northern route – Nerriga, Tarago, Collector, Gunning, Yass
- Combined route – Nerriga, Tarago, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Yass

He also advised on progress with the traffic modelling, data collection and the route selection process. Details of the changes in traffic volumes that would occur if each route was selected were also provided.

At that meeting it was expected that the final route selection would occur in December 2013 and that the final report would have been available before the end of 2013. Delays

have occurred to the project due to the Technical Committee requesting further analysis to be undertaken on the options and further criteria to be used in the selection process.

The following criteria have been used in the assessment process to compare route options:

Environment and planning:

- Impact on vegetation
- Community amenity

Social:

- Heritage - aboriginal
- Physical and Engineering:
- Road Safety
- Maximise use of existing assets

Transport:

- Route grade
- Total network efficiency

Measurable characteristics enabled the performance of each route to be compared and for a ranking to be allocated. This process was agreed with all Technical Committee members and has been used to try to differentiate between the options.

Despite several different approaches to this process including the latest Technical Committee meeting on 10 February 2014, the route options have each time been evaluated to be within a point or two of each other, which for this type of approach is insufficient to state that there is a clear “best” option. This result indicates the difficulty in differentiating between the available routes through an area where traffic volumes are low and information on desired trip destinations has been difficult to gather.

Separately, further work has been carried out to finalise the Traffic Study. This process has been complicated by the very low traffic volumes on the network surrounding the route options and by the difficulty in obtaining information from industry sources about the usage that would be made of any route constructed through this area. It has also been complicated by the need to adopt population growth drivers to predict future traffic volumes as there is no better source of information available for this part of NSW.

The most recent work has been focussed on estimating the benefit cost ratios for each of the routes and also reviewing the differences between the results for all vehicles and for heavy vehicles alone. This approach is providing some differences between the routes but needs to be further discussed by the Technical Committee.

Even if there is a significant difference between the routes the benefit cost ratio is expected to be less than 1 which indicates that we are dealing with costly solutions for relatively small traffic volumes and this will mean that other ways of promoting this project will need to be found. The final report will suggest approaches that could be used to support funding applications that rely on benefits other than purely financial ones.

The timeframe for completion of the final report is now prior to the next SEATS meeting in May at Wollongong.

State Election Project Requests

It has been decided that SEATS should prepare a Project Request Document for both States as they approach their elections. The Victorian election is due on the last Saturday in November 2014 and the NSW election is due on the last Saturday in March 2015. The document will be similar to the one sent out to those who stood for election in

the September last Federal election. The Executive Officer would appreciate members input by the end of March this year please.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

It has been decided that all members should peruse the existing Priority Projects, as certain if they are still relevant and ascertain if other projects should be considered for inclusion. Therefore, members are asked to resubmit those projects considered current and submit new projects for consideration. Those submitting projects should complete the Priority Project template. This can be sent to members by the Executive Officer upon request.

These submissions must be made by early May to enable consideration before the AGM in August. This is a vital part of SEATS work so all members are asked to meet these deadlines.

Strategic Network Document

The Executive determined that Ralf Kastan Consulting should be given the task of updating the SEATS "Bible", The Strategic Network document which has a link on the home page of the SEATS website.

This work will be undertaken in the next few months and Ralf Kastan encouraged delegates to consider the Network Study document and offer suggestions and comments so they may be integrated into the draft revision.

Last Mile Bridge Study

Discussions have been had between Greg Pullen and GHD regarding the progress of the study and the direction SEATS wishes to proceed. A review of the matrix has been undertaken by Shoalhaven City Council's Asset Manager and comments made. Following any amendments and additions, the matrix will be sent to a select number of Councils for trial.

Greg Pullen has sent the updated Matrix to all relevant officers in our member Councils seeking comment on the document. He indicated as below:

Following the meeting last week I have now included 2 attachments:

1. SEATS Bridges Excel spreadsheet containing:
 - a. The template as supplied by GHD
 - b. The partially worked up data sheet as undertaken by Martin Upitis (Shoalhaven CC Asset Manager)
2. Comments about the spreadsheet
 - a. Martin's initial comments after filling in the data sheet
 - b.
 - c. My comments on Martin's issues and the template document.

It may pay for you to pick a couple of your bridges and see if you share the same views as Martin or find any other issues.

What I now need done to advance this is:

1. Review the comments document and provide practical guidance for Marianne (my Excel guru) and me to modify the template to address the issues – Need this by Mon 3rd March
2. Marianne & I will modify template and send back to you as ready for dispatch

to all SEATS LGAs by Friday 7th March with covering letter that I will draft in next few days.

3. Seel LGs to return by Friday 28th March – with courteous reminders as we approach this date
4. SCC (Marianne Jones & I) will aggregate data (Hopefully by 11th April – time allowance for late returns)
5. Circulate aggregated data to this group during week commencing 14th April with some recommendations.
6. Have a finalised position by 28th April ready for submission to SEATS at Wollongong

TRANSPORT OPERATORS FUNCTION

The Executive Officer noted the success of the Transport Operators Function held the previous evening. Attendance at the function was good and valuable discussion on issues affecting the transport industry.

It was noted at the function that the transport operators preferred communication via email and internet forums to communicate issues with SEATS. Suggestions included making the website more interactive with forum availability to leave comments. An online questionnaire would also be well received, but any questionnaire should be short, sharp and to the point.

A number of other suggestions included:

- Councillors and Council staff should consider travelling roads within their shires in freight vehicles of applicable sizes to appreciate issues related to transport of freight on their road network
- Road safety expenditure (such as wire guard fencing) may be better directed towards other safety issues such as addressing shoulder drop-offs and widths of roads
- Contact should be made with other transport organisations to increase spread of SEATS consultation
- Suggestion was made that a similar meeting to be held in NSW. It was considered by the Executive given the geography of the SEATS region in NSW, two meetings be held, one in the coastal area and a second in the capital region.

The Executive noted the contributions of Mark and Sandy Williams of Sanmar Consulting, Chris Vardon OAM, Gordon Charles and East Gippsland Shire Council in arranging and facilitating such a beneficial function.

Presentations

The following presentations were made to the meeting.

Truck Rollover Awareness Program
Alan Pincott, VicRoads

Motorcycle Road Safety Program

Daryl Townsend, East Gippsland Shire Council

My Experience as a Transport Operator
Graeme Dyer, Dyers Distribution

Transport/Freight Certification and Monitoring
Hugh McMaster – Managing Director, Hugh McMaster Consulting

Presentations are available on the SEATS Website by mid March 2014.

Delegates Reports

Cr Andrew Guile

- Berry bypass is ongoing and consultation underway with regards to the project.
- The \$2 Million upgrade of South Nowra included one roundabout, of which advice claims that the roundabout has been constructed to standards, however freight operators have expressed concerns about its design.
- Believes that safety of motorcyclist campaign is an issue across both states and all region approach is required

John Vucic

- Regional air services in the Cooma and Snowy River area being reviewed by SEROC and Transport for NSW. Subject to EOI, and no interest expressed
- Trialling of a bus service between Jindabyne, Cooma and Canberra continues
- Truck incidents within the township of Cooma are on the increase

Phil Cantillon

- As a strategic priority, it is hoped that Sand Road does not drop off the radar
- Baw Baw Shire Council is currently reviewing how they do business, including engagement with industry and key stakeholders

Mark Williams

- Expressed appreciation and satisfaction with the transport operators meeting held recently.

Nola Bransgrove

- Expressed concerns with regards to alternate route detours during disasters. Recent bushfires have highlighted concerns with unsuitable routes being selected for freight movements.

Kenn Beer

- Please to still be associated with SEATS in new capacity with Safe Systems Solutions

Peter Francis

- Sees great value in Cross Border Study Report from Cooney Consulting, and reminded the delegation not to discount the movement of people as well as freight

Michael Lamperd

- Happy to see more involvement from Transport Operators
- Mentioned recent developments with Cootes Transport

Lesley Scarlett

- Noted the engagement of GHD by Southern Councils Group for Regional Boating Program, looking at safety and identification of priority projects.

Hugh McMaster

- Has encouraged TCA to join SEATS
- Enjoyed the presentation by Dyers Transport

Cr Bob Wenger

- Gippsland Local Government Network has given to Victorian Government study of freight corridors through the region. A number of suggested projects were raised in the report including; Gippsland Rail Freight Corridor Study, High priority rail infrastructure upgrades, Medium term priority rail upgrades, South Gippsland Highway realignment and duplication of Princes Highway including Longwarry intersection upgrade

Chris Waites

- Noted Darren Chester's comments the previous evening regarding Princes Highway in Gippsland not being recognised on the national road register and encouraged all relevant parties to keep campaigning.

Chris Hastie

- Ongoing works between Sale and Taralgon, there has been ongoing discussions with VicRoads with regards to freight along this section of road.

Greg Pullen

- NSW Government Regional Transport Plan for the South East has not yet been released
- A major upgrade at HMAS Albatross has caused significant damage to the regional road and has been a big concern for the community
- \$60 Million has been spent on Prince Highway upgrades in NSW over the past decade
- Shoalhaven City Council will be submitting in the Priority Projects review the Shoalhaven River Crossing
- Carnival crusies raised issue with the running of tenders from Jervis Bay, and that some wharf upgrades may need to be considered for future viability

Paul Stampton

- Noted the good work of construction of overtaking lanes on the Princes Highway

Phil Stone

- South Gippsland Council will be looking for an election commitment during the Victorian State Government election campaign for the upgrade of Leongatha

Bridge

- There are a number of bridge construction works ongoing in the area at the moment which is pleasing

Renaë Elrington

- Thanked SEATS for the invitation to attend meetings, it is a valuable networking opportunity and gains access to understanding of issues
- Heavy vehicle focus is being pursued in the South East area such as safety optimization

Cr Marianne Pelz

- Princes Highway is regularly closed due to disasters but it is noted how quick alternatives routes are found and the Highway is quickly opened.
- Safety wire fencing has been damaged extensively during fires and it is queried if it is cost effective installation over other safety barriers.
- As a SEATS priority project, should Princes Highway upgrade East of Orbost be put on the list. East Gippsland Council intends on submitting the proposal.

Cr Dick Ellis

- Noted the vigorous ongoing debates regarding roads matters and funding
- Appreciated the quality of presentations

Cr Debbie Brown

- Encouraged SEATS to continue looking at the overall picture, and all areas are good at representing own patch, but need to look at the overall South East area.

Meeting Dates and Venues for 2014

MAY: 15 – 16 May 2014 at Wollongong NSW hosted by Wollongong City Council

AUGUST: 21 – 22 August 2014 at Sale Victoria hosted by Wellington Shire Council

NOVEMBER: 6 – 7 November 2014 at Nowra hosted by Shoalhaven City Council.

Meeting Dates and Venues for 2015

FEBRUARY: 19 – 20 May 2015 hosted by South Gippsland Shire Council

MAY: 21 – 22 May 2015 (to be advised)

AUGUST: 20 – 21 August 2015 (to be advised)

NOVEMBER: 5 -6 November 2015 (to be advised)

Hosting a meeting

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.

It may be necessary to recommend to the host Council to minimize tours to enable more discussion time. Alternatively, it is also acceptable to extend the meeting time on Thursday from, say 10.30am onwards.

Any Council willing to host a meeting in 2014 is asked to contact the Executive Officer as soon as possible.

SEATS REPORT dated 27 February 2014

Attachments:

RMS Report February 2014

VicRoads Report February 2014

ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES REPORT FOR SEATS MEETING –2014

BULLI PASS

- RMS is investigating the future provision of an improved escarpment crossing by way of upgrading Bulli Pass to provide an efficient and safe alternative route to Mount Ousley Road.
- The NSW Government is funding planning investigations. There is no current funding or timeframe for construction of the upgrade.
- Investigations are continuing.

Mt OUSLEY/M1 PRINCES MOTORWAY CLIMBING LANES

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is planning to upgrade Mount Ousley Road, recently renamed the M1 Princes Motorway, by adding climbing lanes at four uphill locations between Picton Road and Bulli Tops.
- The project will provide four new climbing lanes, two in each direction.
- The northbound climbing lanes are planned at locations between Cataract Creek and Bellambi Creek.
- The southbound climbing lanes are planned at locations between Bulli Pass and Cataract Creek.
- RMS is currently early in the concept design phase. SMEC Australia have been awarded a contract for the preparation of environmental studies.
- The Australian Government and the NSW Government have confirmed a joint funding arrangement as part of the Nation Building 2 program.
- Work has commenced on the northbound acceleration lane from the Picton Road intersection.

PICTON ROAD

- The \$53.0 million program of safety improvements for Picton Road is now finished. The overall program of 15 individual projects has taken 4 years to complete. During the program of works Roads and Maritime has:
 - Spent over 100 000 man hours on construction.
 - Installed 6.5km of new guardrail.
 - Installed 10.8km of concrete or wire rope median.
 - Increased the amount of overtaking opportunities in both directions by 1.5km.
 - Realigned two substandard curves.

As a result of a speed zone review undertaken on the completion of the program the speed limit was restored to 100km/h.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/south_eastern_region/picton/index.html

WILTON JUNCTION

- The RMS is continuing to work in conjunction with TfNSW with the developers of Wilton Junction in regard to infrastructure requirements and traffic modelling.

PRINCES HWY KINGHORNE ST TO FOREST RD, SOUTH NOWRA

- The NSW Government is funding the \$62 million upgrade of the Princes Highway between Kinghorne Street and Forest Road at South Nowra. The upgrade involves upgrading 6.3 kilometres of the Princes Highway to four lanes that will improve traffic flow and efficiency through this section of Nowra.
- Roads and Maritime Services are managing project delivery and Nace Civil Engineering is contracted to construct the upgrade.
- The lanes were opened to traffic during the Christmas holiday peak period. Lanes have been reduced depending on roadworks however are anticipated to be fully re-opened to general traffic in March 2014.

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

KINGS HIGHWAY ROAD SAFETY REVIEW

- The NSW Centre for Road Safety and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) have undertaken a road safety review of the Kings Highway between the Princes Highway roundabout at Batemans Bay and the eastern most part of the ACT border just south of Bungendore.
- Community members and stakeholders were invited to submit their feedback on the Kings Highway Road Safety Review through an online issues mapping tool.
- The comments received during the consultation period have been compiled
- The report has now been released and can be found on the following link;

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/downloads/kings_hwy_safety_review.pdf

KINGS HIGHWAY NELLIGEN BRIDGE

- Roads and Maritime Services is investigating options for the future of Nelligen Bridge over the Clyde River at Nelligen
- In 2011, Roads and Maritime identified deterioration of the reinforced concrete piles under the bridge during routine inspections. Structural engineers have assessed the strength of the bridge and found it is still able to safely carry normal highway loads, but will deteriorate over time. The bridge will require significant future maintenance.
- Strategic designs and initial cost estimates for both the maintenance and new bridge construction options were completed earlier this year. The cost estimates for both the

major rehabilitation work and the construction of a new bridge on a new alignment are significant.

- Options for repair or replacement are being investigated.
- To assist in an understanding of potential risks and constraints, a preliminary environmental investigation is being prepared by URS Pty Ltd

PRINCES HWY GERRINGONG UPGRADE – MOUNT PLEASANT TO TOOLIJOA ROAD

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is upgrading the Princes Highway between Mount Pleasant and Toolijooa Road. This work is funded by the NSW Government.
- The \$329 million upgrade will provide 7.5 kilometres of upgraded highway and include two new interchanges, at Gerringong and Gerroa.
- RMS has contracted Fulton Hogan to design and construct the Gerringong upgrade. Construction is substantially underway with completion expected in the first half of 2015, weather permitting.
- The 2013/14 State Budget allocated \$115million to the project and construction continues.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hwy/gerringong/index.html

PRINCES HIGHWAY, FOXGROUND AND BERRY BYPASS – TOOLIJOA ROAD TO SCHOFIELDS LANE

- On 25 June 2012 the Minister for Roads and Ports announced that the northern Bypass of Berry would proceed to environmental assessment.
- In September 2012 RMS lodged the environmental assessment with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. This was exhibited in late 2012 with over 216 submissions received.
- Planning Approval was granted by NSW Minister for Planning & Infrastructure on 22 July 2013 following a review of the project in light of Agency and public submissions.
- The 2013/14 State Budget has allocated \$19 million to the project.
- RMS has invited tenders for the detailed design and construction of the project. Tenders closed in December 2013 and are currently being assessed.

<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 and Review of Environmental Factors for this project.
- A display of the Review of Environmental Factors was undertaken in November and December 2013. A submissions report is being prepared to consider comments received during the display period.

- The 2013/14 State Budget has allocated \$3 million for ongoing planning for the project.

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

PRINCES HWY DIGNAMS CREEK

- RMS publicly displayed a preferred road corridor and alignment for comment in December 2010 and consulted directly with affected land owners and local councils. As part of the planning process, RMS has reviewed the proposed road corridor and has investigated an alignment to the west of the existing Dignams Creek Bridge. This is a result of the need to go forward with a design that gives better value for money.
- Planning for this project continues with the Roads and Maritime Services displaying a Review of Environmental Factors in June/July 2013.
- RMS has examined the submissions received as part of the REF display period. A Submissions Report has been prepared in response to the community's comments and was published on the RMS's website in November 2013 with the determination of the Review of Environmental Factors.
- The 2013/14 State Budget allocated \$2 million to the project.

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

PRINCES HIGHWAY, TERMEIL CREEK

- 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 placed a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) on public display for comment from Monday 28 November 2011 until Friday 16 December 2011. The Review of Environmental Factors was determined on 30 October 2012.
- The 2013/14 State Budget allocated \$1.5 million to the project

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hway/termeil_creek/index.html

PRINCES HWY BEGA BYPASS

- The Australian Government funded construction of the \$60 million bypass of Bega on the Princes Highway. The bypass is approximately 3.5 kilometres long and uses an existing road corridor to the west of Bega.
- Major construction work commenced in May 2012. The project was opened to traffic on the 19th December 2013 by Dr Peter Hendy, the member for Eden-Monaro. The Member for Bega, Mr Andrew Constance MP was also in attendance. The project was completed approximately four months ahead of schedule and \$5M under budget.
- The project was fully federally funded with \$10 million allocated in the 2012/13 state budget.

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

HEAVY VEHICLE REST AREAS

- The NSW and Australian governments are joint funding \$8.7 million to construct five new heavy vehicle rest areas on the Princes Highway between Sussex Inlet and the Victorian border.
- This will ensure compliance with the National Transport Commission (NTC) fatigue management guidelines and improve stopping opportunities for the heavy vehicle operators.
- The new rest areas will be constructed on the Princes Highway, three southbound and two northbound.

Southbound rest areas:

- Jerrawangala, 2 kilometres south of Sussex Inlet Road – completed.
- Waldrons Swamp, 7 kilometres north of Moruya – completed.
- Near Christopher's Road, 32 kilometres north of Bega - 12 month moratorium in place.

Northbound rest areas:

- Near Dummetts Lane, 28 kilometres north of Bega – completed.
- Near Broulee Road, 7 kilometres south of Mogo – completed.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hwy/hv_rest_area/index.html

PRINCES HWY NOWRA BRIDGE

- AECOM Consultants has been awarded the tender to carry out a study into the best possible location for a replacement of the southbound Shoalhaven River Bridge.
- Studies will also look at how to reduce traffic congestion on the Princes Highway near the Shoalhaven River, and on future use, removal or retention of the existing southbound bridge.
- An initial period of public consultation has been undertaken in November and December 2013.
- Prior to the recent Federal election Ms Ann Sudmalis MP, Member for Gilmore, pledged \$10M to the planning of a new crossing of the Shoalhaven.
- Investigations are continuing.

PRINCES HWY ALBION PARK RAIL, YALLAH TO OAK FLATS

- In the 2013/14 State budget, \$1million has been committed for ongoing planning for a possible future upgrade of the Princes Highway between Yallah and Oak Flats.
- A review of the corridor identified on local environment plans was undertaken, and the suitability of the corridor was confirmed, with slight amendment.

- Investigations are continuing

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hway/yallah_oak_flats.html

PRINCES HWY BURRILL LAKE BRIDGE

- Roads and Maritime Services is investigating options for the future of the bridge over Burrill Lake on the Princes Highway south of Ulladulla. Investigations are continuing.
- A review of environmental factors is currently being prepared and is anticipated to be placed on display for public comment in early 2014.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hway/burill_lake/index.html

SEATS

February 2014

VicRoads Eastern Region – Regional Director

Sebastian Motta finished at VicRoads on 10 January 2014 and has joined the Linking Melbourne Authority to work on the East West Link. A new Regional Director is expected to be appointed in March 2014, and until that time, Ray Paterson (Manager Project Delivery, South East Projects) is Acting Regional Director, Eastern Region.

Princes Highway East Duplication - Traralgon to Sale

The duplication of the Princes Highway between Traralgon and Sale is a joint Federal Government (\$140m) and State Government (\$35m) project under the Nation Building Program (2009-2014). The project is expected to duplicate approximately half of the 43km of undivided length of the highway between Traralgon and Sale.

In February 2011, the Federal funding was reprofiled to extend the current funding and completion of anticipated works to the 2015-2016 financial year in order to assist with flood recovery in Victoria and Queensland.

The State Government has submitted an application to the Australian Government for consideration of \$245m funding in the Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP), commencing in 2014-15 for the completion of the Princes Highway duplication between Traralgon and Sale.

All environmental approvals and Planning Scheme Amendments have been obtained for the project including an EES assessment for the section between Traralgon East and Kilmany.

The status of construction contracts for the next stage of works under the current Nation Building program are:

- **Stammers Road to Minnedale Road.** Contractor commenced work onsite on 9 September 2013. Works are expected to be completed in late 2014.
- **East of Denison Road to East of Nambrok Road.** Design and construct contract was awarded on 12 September 2013. Works are expected to be completed in mid 2015.
- **Flynn to Rosedale.** Design and construct contract was advertised on 14 August 2013. Works are expected to commence onsite in mid 2014 and be completed in mid 2016.
- **Fulham – Wurruk to West of Sale-Heyfield Road.** Design and construct contract expected to be advertised in mid 2014.

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

Construction of the final stage of the Bass Highway duplication between South Gippsland Highway and Anderson (the section between Woolmer Road and Phillip Island Road) was completed in October 2013 (prior to the Phillip Island Motorcycle Grand Prix).

The new 3km Link Road (Bass Highway to Phillip Island Road) was completed and opened to traffic prior to the Christmas holiday period.

This project improves traffic flow to and from Phillip Island and is expected to reduce the amount of traffic using the Anderson roundabout by 60%.

Princes Highway East Road Safety Route Treatment Project

In November 2010, \$36 million was allocated under the TAC Safer Road Infrastructure Program (SRIP) to deliver a range of road safety improvement projects along the Princes Highway between Longwarry and the NSW border.

The projects under the \$36m PHE Route Safety program include both traditional road safety treatments and new innovative treatments on various sections to target the specific crash types occurring along the entire length of the highway.

As of January 2014, \$25 million of this funding has been implemented as detailed below.

Longwarry to Traralgon: This roadside hazard removal and protection project was completed in January 2013. These works included significant tree removal and safety barrier installation along this 80km stretch of Freeway/Highway.

A separate Contract was also undertaken in 2013 for 'enhanced delineation' works along this section of Freeway/Highway. This works include upgrades to guide posts, reflective pavement markers, signage and audio tactile edgelines and were completed in November 2013.

Stratford to Bairnsdale: Works on the first stage of the project finished in mid 2012. Large overhead Electronic Variable Message Signs (VMS) became operational in early 2013 displaying interactive and engaging road safety messages to road users while also providing information during emergency events.

An evaluation on the effectiveness of the driver fatigue treatments is currently being undertaken with the potential to install additional VMS.

Bairnsdale township: The creation of 'Gateways' including electronic 50km/h speed limit signs on each approach to the CBD also form part of this project which is expected to be completed by mid 2014.

East of Orbost: The 'mass curve treatments' involving safety barrier installation, hazard removal and delineation works between Orbost and Cann River were completed in late 2012. 'Stage 2' of the project which includes similar treatments from Cann River to the NSW border plus minor curve realignments and widening to isolated curves has been funded with construction commencing in January 2014.

Lookout Rd/Hotel Rd, Kalimna: Funding for improvements to both Lookout Road and Hotel Road intersections with the highway has been approved as part of the Safer Road Infrastructure Program. These works which include construction of left and right turn lanes are set to commence in February 2014.

Township Projects: The remaining two projects under the PHE \$36million Road Safety Program are for 'Gateway' treatments and 'Mass Pole' treatments which aim to improve speed compliance and remove roadside hazards throughout townships located on this section of the Princes Highway. These projects are currently being developed and are planned to be completed in 2015.

Hyland Highway Overtaking Lane

The Victorian State Government announced the construction an overtaking lane on the Hyland Highway between Traralgon and Yarram as part of the 2010 election. The 1.3km overtaking lane will be located near Carrajung South in the Traralgon bound direction.

The required Planning Scheme Amendment and land acquisition process was completed in 2013. Construction has commenced in January 2014 and be completed during the 2014-15 construction season. The total estimated cost for this project is \$4.66 million.

Strzelecki Highway Overtaking Lane

The construction of a northbound overtaking lane on Strzelecki Highway north of Stubbers Lane was announced by the Victorian State Government as part of the 2010 election. Construction of this overtaking lane commenced in September 2013 and is expected to be completed by mid 2014. The total estimated cost for this project is \$4.1 million.

Leongatha Alternate Truck Route

On 14 December 2011 the Victorian State Government announced a \$270,000 planning study for an alternate heavy vehicle route for Leongatha. VicRoads commenced planning in March 2012, with the focus to redirect heavy vehicles away from the town centre (Bair Street) to improve amenity and safety within the town.

The alternative truck route has been developed in partnership with the South Gippsland Shire Council and a Stakeholder Reference Group (including representatives from road transport, business and community groups). Public consultation has been incorporated throughout the study including a community drop-in session held in September 2013.

The route was endorsed by South Gippsland Shire Council in December 2013, and travels along the existing South Gippsland Highway (Anderson Street), Roughead Street (Strzelecki Highway) and Long Street. Intersection works are required at the connections to the South Gippsland Highway.

The planning study has been completed and South Gippsland Shire Council is now applying for funding to construct the works required for the alternative route. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$5 million. South Gippsland Shire

Council will also plan and design amenity improvements within the Leongatha town centre.

Princes Highway – Overtaking lanes between Nowa Nowa and Orbost

On 29 August 2013, the Federal Government announced it would partner the Victorian State Government to invest \$11 million in the construction of three overtaking lanes between Nowa Nowa and Orbost. The overtaking lanes will be constructed in the eastbound direction near Hospital Creek and Dinner Creek, and westbound near Wombat Creek. The overtaking lanes will complete the opportunities along this section of the Princes Highway.

The business case required for formal budget approval and funding to be released from both the State and Federal Government was submitted federally in November 2013. Upon Federal approval, the State submission will be completed.

Planning work is progressing with a view of commencing construction in early 2015.

Safe System Road Infrastructure Program (SSRIP)

In March 2013, the Victorian Government announced a \$1 billion investment in safer roads as part of Victoria's 10 year Road Safety Strategy (2013-2022). The Safe System Road Infrastructure Program (SSRIP) is the centrepiece of Victoria's unprecedented attack on the road toll. SSRIP is funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and VicRoads manages the program.

Key safety improvements will be undertaken at following locations in Gippsland:

- Bass Highway – South Gippsland Highway interchange to Gurdies – St Helliars Road (\$3.2M) ~ *Run-Off-Road* treatments
- South Gippsland Highway – Bass Highway to Bass River (\$5.4M) ~ *Run-Off-Road* treatments
- Drouin–Korumburra Road (\$3.9M) ~ *Run-Off-Road* treatments
- Bass Highway – Cashin Street to Korumburra–Inverloch Road (\$4.4M) ~ *Intersection* treatments
- Paynesville Road / Eagle Point Road / Forge Creek Road (\$2.4M) ~ *Intersection* treatments
- Drouin – Korumburra Rd (\$3.9M) ~ *Innovative* treatments
- PHE – Village Avenue (\$1.4M) ~ *Blacklength* treatments
- Main Neerim Road (\$2.4M) ~ *Blacklength* treatments

Princes Highway East – Truck Stop upgrade near McKenzie River

The Victorian Government, through its Transport Solutions regional freight initiative, announced \$28 million funding for 30 projects designed to support growing regional export industries. One project included in this package was to upgrade the existing rest area / truck stop facility west of Cann River.

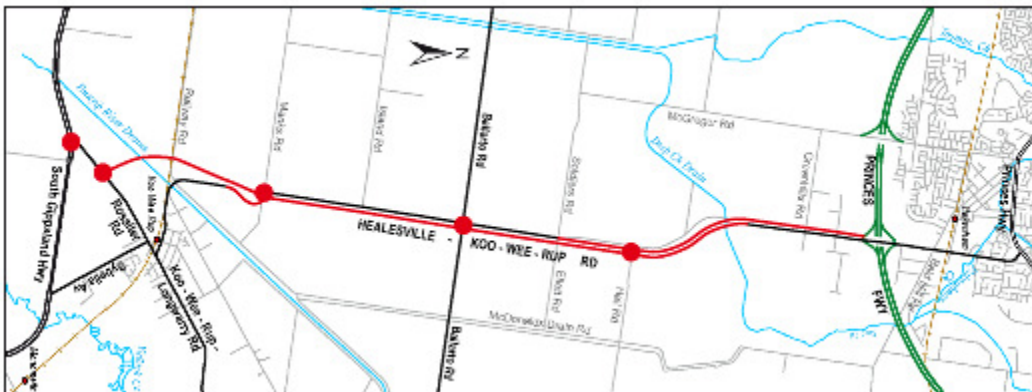
The project involves upgrading pavement and sealing with designated parking bays for eight B-double trucks, improving the entrance and exits points, and the installation of street lighting. The project will result in immediate benefits by providing heavy vehicles with a safe area to stop, which will improve safety and help reduce driver fatigue.

The project budget is \$1.25 million including \$625,000 from the Victorian State Government and \$625,000 from the Commonwealth Government (through the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program).

Construction works are underway and expected to be completed by the end of February 2014.

Koo Wee Rup Bypass Project

VicRoads has completed a planning study for the development of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road between the Pakenham Bypass and South Gippsland Highway, including a bypass of Koo Wee Rup, as shown in the figure below.



The Victorian State Government has committed \$66 million in funding for the Koo Wee Rup bypass. This is the first stage to upgrade the Healesville – Koo Wee Rup route between the Pakenham bypass and the South Gippsland Highway. The new 3.4km bypass to the west of the Koo Wee Rup township will include:

- A single lane in each direction between Healesville – Koo Wee Rup Road at Manks Road and the South Gippsland Highway.
- A new 280m bridge across the Bunyip River drains.
- New roundabouts at the South Gippsland Highway and on Rossiter Road.

- A new roundabout at Manks Road with a realigned connection into Koo Wee Rup township.

An advisory committee process was used to reserve the land required for the upgrade of the Healesville – Koo Wee Rup route and to obtain environmental approvals under both Commonwealth and State legislation for the bypass of Koo Wee Rup.

The planning scheme amendment was gazetted in February 2013, and VicRoads has since been progressing land acquisition. To minimise impacts to some landowners, the complete possession of all land required will not be finalised until later in 2014, however these areas will not delay the delivery of the project.

Tenders for construction closed in June 2013 and a contract valued at almost \$42 million was awarded to Abigroup (now Lend Lease Engineering) in August 2013.

Final environmental approval to the project was obtained from the Federal Department of the Environment in October 2013 which allowed construction works to commence on site.

At the end of 2013, initial site preparation works had begun, including fencing works, establishing the site compound, ground preparation, early revegetation works and preventative maintenance on major oil and gas pipelines.

Major earthworks commenced in mid January 2014 and are focussed on the construction of the embankment approaches for the bridge over the Bunyip River Drains. The bridge works are expected to commence in early March 2014.

Construction of the bypass is anticipated to be completed by late 2015.

Phillip Island Road, San Remo – Slip Repair

In mid 2013, VicRoads and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries entered into an agreement to each fund \$1 million to address the foreshore erosion occurring adjacent to Phillip Island Road in San Remo.

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries has obtained all necessary environmental approvals, and VicRoads will be going out to tender for the remedial works in mid February 2014.

The works are expected to be completed in late June 2014.

\$170M Repair and Restore Package

In May 2013, the Victorian State Government announced \$90 million for pavement strengthening and \$80 million for resurfacing works across a three year period, in addition to the current base funding for road maintenance to address the condition of Victorian roads.

Twenty priority pavement rehabilitation sites have been approved for funding in 2013-14 across Gippsland with a combined costs of nearly \$10 million. Works commenced in mid November 2013 and are expected to be completed by late April 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PLANNING & LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

New Deputy Secretary Transport Appointed

Dean Yates, Secretary, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure appointed Gary Liddle to the position of Deputy Secretary Transport as part of his executive leadership team. Gary has over 40 years experience with VicRoads, the last six of which were as Chief Executive. He is well known to many members of SEATS having recognised the work of SEATS and spoken at previous meetings.

Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study

Under the Transport Investing in Regions Program a contribution of \$40,000 was made towards an integrated transport study for Phillip Island and the surrounding area, to be undertaken by Bass Coast Shire Council. The study will provide an important framework for subsequent detailed traffic and transport modelling and possible infrastructure and system improvements. Council has prepared a final draft for community consultation.

Warragul Station Precinct

The Warragul Station Precinct project will involve the construction of a new road underpass under the Gippsland Railway to connect Queen Street to Alfred Street in Warragul, and construction of a new car park and bus interchange for station users on the south side of Warragul Station. The total project cost is \$26 million.

The contract was awarded in November 2013 and work is expected to be completed in mid 2015.