

15 April 2011

Council challenges South Coast Members to stand together for Princes Highway funding

Shoalhaven City Council urges the newly elected New South Wales Government to take action today as applications for funding for the Princes Highway from the Commonwealth Government must be prepared and instigated by the NSW Government.

Shoalhaven City Deputy Mayor Councillor Gary Kearney said "The call now is for the O'Farrell government to work with, not against, Canberra and gain for NSW important Infrastructure funding for specific projects of economic significance such as the Princes Highway."

"Unfortunately the previous State Government let our region down, and I am hopeful that our local members will now have a greater influence" Cllr Kearney said.

Greg Pullen, Shoalhaven City Council's Economic Development Manager, says the real issue is getting all our NSW Parliamentary members to work together to make our area a priority "We are calling on our South Coast members - Gareth Ward, Shelley Hancock and Andrew Constance to work together with Councils and the Southern Councils Group to have the Princes Highway at the top of the NSW priority list." Mr Pullen said. "The RTA already has the material necessary for the submission"

Following on from the excitement of the Hon Simon Crean MP's visit to the Shoalhaven, and his congratulations to council of its efforts in working together with community, business and across councils, Mr Pullen is urging those involved to now join together to fix our roads as well. "Mr Crean, as Minister for Regional Australia is not the Minister to target for the upgrading of the Princess Highway" Mr Pullen said. "It's not what his current initiative is all about". Mr Pullen added "its time we worked together to target the correct people to get our issues resolved"

"The case for the entire Princes Highway needs to be prepared and a series of projects submitted to Infrastructure Australia as soon as possible" says Mr Pullen.

"The O'Farrell Government has committed to \$500million in expenditure on the Princes Highway upgrades within its first term. It would be great if the 3 local members for the South Coast work together to make the case for additional joint funding for the Highway and have this matched or a significant contribution made to deliver the improvements to the communities & businesses in a quicker timeframe" Mr Pullen said.

Shoalhaven City Deputy Mayor Councillor Gary Kearney is also urging our communities to work for a united purpose "Working together is the best way forward" said Cllr Kearney.

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