



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

12th December 2006

<b>DSS5</b>	<b>2006 NSW LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS</b> <b>FILE: 165 NJT {Folio No. *}</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on a proposed motion for the 'A' Division Annual Conference on matters arising from the 2006 NSW Local Roads Congress.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

Council at its meeting on the 14 November 2006 considered a report on the 2006 Local Roads Congress held in Sydney on the 16/17<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Council resolved:

*"That a proposed motion for the "A" Division Conference on matters arising at the Roads Congress be prepared for Council's December meeting."*

Based on the concerns raised at the Congress, a Congress Communiqué was formulated. The following proposed motion is based on that Communiqué:

### **Proposed Motion**

That a commitment be sought from NSW Government to the following concerns raised at the 2006 NSW Local Roads Congress:

- Reinstatement of the Regional Roads Timber Bridge program to its previous level in real terms;
- Recognition of the importance of the State Government's Regional Road Block Grant funding arrangements, and commitment to a real increase in funding beyond the annual CPI adjustment. And also commit to a one off increase in the Block Grant to cover the difference in the Road Construction and Maintenance Cost Index and the CPI or actual increase in the past 5 years, with the increase in future years being equivalent to the Road Construction and Maintenance Cost Index (as opposed to CPI);
- Ensuring that the outcomes of the Regional Road Classification Review are cost neutral to Local Government and that the results of the review be released immediately.

# H - 2

- Support for the initiatives undertaken by the Department of Local Government Infrastructure Taskforce in developing an asset management framework for NSW, and continued dialogue with councils and professional organisations to ensure a satisfactory transfer of expertise to the industry.
- Support for the LGSA Strengthening Local Government Taskforce and calls on all councils and the NSW Government to implement the findings of the Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government.
- implementation of recommendation No.9 of the Independent Inquiry and assume responsibility for all regional roads in rural shires.
- Calls on all councils in NSW to develop long term infrastructure management plans and 10 year financial plans, and seeks the State Government to commit to financial assistance to facilitate implementation of the asset renewal demands within those plans.
- Any changes to heavy vehicle access arrangements such as those covered by Higher Mass Limits and Performance Based Standards are introduced only after:
  - appropriate consultation with Local Government;
  - the development of comprehensive route assessment guidelines; and
  - arrangements for compensation for damage to local road networks.
- Support for the concept / proposal for a North / South inland rail corridor from Melbourne to Brisbane.
- Support for the review of the NSW Roads Act 1993 such that the RTA is the Roads Authority for highways.

That a commitment be sought from the Federal Government to the following concerns raised at the 2006 NSW Local Roads Congress

- The Commonwealth Government to urgently review the quantum of road funding provided to NSW Councils as Financial Assistance Grants in order to address the funding gap of \$718 million p.a. as established by the Roads and Transport Directorate Road Asset Benchmarking Project with data provided by 135 councils.
- Urge the Federal Government to commit to the concept proposal for a North/South Inland rail corridor from Melbourne to Brisbane.
- The Federal Government to commit to financial assistance to facilitate implementation of the asset renewal documents within Council's long-term infrastructure management plans.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

*Nil*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Nil*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*There are no policy or statutory implications.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the motion as proposed in the report be submitted to the 'A' Division Annual Conference of the Shires Association of NSW in Casino on 7 February 2007.**

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**A P Vermeulen**  
**DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**