



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham

Jennie George MP
Federal Member for Throsby

Illawarra Transport Infrastructure Priorities Forum

Regional Development Australia-Illawarra, at our request, will convene an *Illawarra Transport Infrastructure Priorities Forum* (Forum) tomorrow to discuss and determine a united priority list of transport infrastructure for input into the Commonwealth's \$20 billion *Building Australia Fund* (BAF).

We are hopeful that this Forum can bring together the dozens of peak organisations representing business and economic interest in Wollongong and Illawarra to discuss and determine a transport infrastructure priority list to ensure we can build a case for a fair share of funding from the \$20 billion BAF.

Regional Development Australia-Illawarra has invited regional stakeholders to attend the Forum tomorrow, Tuesday, 12 August, at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus.

The Forum will commence at 9am and conclude at 4pm. Mr Roger Summerill OAM will facilitate the Forum.

Stakeholders proposing transport infrastructure projects are required to assess the following criteria to ensure the nominated project:

- makes our region and cities liveable, including reducing congestion
- bring economic opportunities to the region
- deliver products to markets, including internationally
- add to business and employment opportunities
- connect local businesses with Sydney CBD, south-west and western Sydney, and
- reduce pollution and greenhouse gases.

In addition, regional stakeholders should also consider whether nominated projects identify current and/or future:

- gaps
- deficiencies
- impediments and
- bottlenecks in the region's transport infrastructure.

Only nationally significant regional transport infrastructure which meets the criteria listed will be considered by the Forum.

Attached (only on email PDF version) is a briefing paper, which outlines in more detail the proceedings for the Forum.

Media & photo opp. arrangements

Please note that the Forum is not open to the media.

However, at 11.45am, media are able to take electronic and photo footage of proceedings.

At 12noon, Sharon Bird and Jennie George will provide comment on the Forum proceedings at a doorstep.

At the conclusion of the Forum, a communiqué representing all regional stakeholders at the Forum will be distributed to the region's media.

A media conference will be called at the conclusion of the Forum – a time will be advised.

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