



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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Illawarra region's transport infrastructure: Vital links for Australia's future

Submission to Infrastructure Australia

We are delighted to publicly release the Illawarra submission to Infrastructure Australia titled *Illawarra region's transport infrastructure: Vital links for Australia's future*.

The 52-page submission lodged with Infrastructure Australia on Wednesday makes the case for four key transport infrastructure projects, which if accepted, would increase the Illawarra's productive capacity and take pressure off existing road and rail infrastructure, whilst the Port of Port Kembla continues to expand.

The submission examined the following four projects:

- Expansion of the Outer Harbour of the Port of Port Kembla
- Completion of the Maldon-Dombarton rail line
- Upgrade of the Picton Road
- Upgrade of the Princes Highway (subject of a separate submission).

The Maldon-Dombarton rail line is the subject of a \$300,000 pre-feasibility study was not given detailed analysis, but its importance is highlighted in the submission by the potential for efficient and safe transport of commodities to and from the Port of Port Kembla, and in relieving the traffic volume on the Picton Road.

Advertisements for the public tender of a consultant to undertake the pre-feasibility study will appear in newspapers in the next fortnight. The terms of reference for the pre-feasibility study were announced on 15 August 2008.

The submission makes two recommendations to Infrastructure Australia and the Commonwealth:

- Jointly fund the stage one Outer Harbour development on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the NSW Government at a total cost of \$97 million covering land reclamation, dredging and berth construction over two years (2009-10)
- Fully fund the upgrade of 27 kilometres of the Picton Road between Mt Ousley and the Hume Highway intersection by widening the existing road to a four lane divided carriageway to be built over two years (2009-10) at an estimated cost of \$135 million.

The upgrade of the Princes Highway was addressed by a separate submission lodged with Infrastructure Australia by the Southern Councils Group.

The *Illawarra region's transport infrastructure: Vital links for Australia's future* submission will be used by us to campaign within the Commonwealth for infrastructure investment in the Illawarra, especially as the Prime Minister has brought forward consideration of infrastructure projects as part of the *Economic Security Strategy* announced on Monday, 14 October 2008.

The submission follows an Illawarra Transport Infrastructure Priorities Forum held at the Innovation Campus on 12 August and attended by a wide range of organisations representing business, industry, trade union and community in the Illawarra region.

This Forum, and the submission, makes clear that the continued expansion of the Port of Port Kembla will influence the land transport infrastructure the Illawarra region requires.

We specifically thank Meyrick & Associates for the comprehensive submission in such a short time frame.

We also express appreciation to Wollongong City Council and the Port Kembla Port Corporation for contributing to the funding of the region's submission, and Regional Development Australia Illawarra for the convening of the Forum in August and for co-ordinating the drafting of the submission.

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