



Australia's property industry

Creating for Generations

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29 January 2021

Ms Joanne Parrott
Director, Southern Region
Transport for NSW
Level 4, 90 Crown St
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Email to: isrtp@transport.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Parrott

Submission - Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan

The Property Council of Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan. We acknowledge our collaborative working relationship with Transport for NSW and will continue to engage on the finalisation and implementation of this plan.

As Australia's peak representative of the property and construction industry, the Property Council's members include investors, owners, managers and developers of property across all asset classes. We also represent a diverse group of members spread across all parts of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region.

Considering the significant \$23.9 billion contribution our local economy contributes to the overall NSW economy and the predicted population increase of an extra 100,000 people across the region, we welcome a whole-of-region Transport Plan to cater for this growth. We support in principle the objectives and themes outlined in the plan to ensure the Illawarra Shoalhaven's economy continues to evolve and thrives well into the future to support growth, jobs and investment in our region.

We also note some alignment of the Plan to the Illawarra Shoalhaven City Deal Prospectus, which was launched in late 2020 and welcome this, however, we have identified that some aspects of this proposal have not been outlined more clearly in the Regional Plan and encourage Transport for NSW to continue engaging with RDA Illawarra and the wider City Deal Collaborative Group to ensure that priorities are aligned to support and deliver the strategic vision for the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

We encourage Transport for NSW to continue engaging with industry and business in the finalisation and implementation of this plan, and we recommend including a clear action plan as part of the overall Transport Plan so that there are clear timeframes outlined to deliver and track progress the initiatives.

Key indicators and measures to support the actions identified would also be beneficial in tracking progress, which could be done digitally using an online dashboard and would be an efficient way to provide timely information to stakeholders.

Collaboration will be critical in achieving the objectives set out in the plan and continuous input will be required from stakeholders. We request that Transport for NSW provide ongoing communication with industry and business to provide detail on progress of objectives/actions as outlined in the plan.

Further feedback on the objectives/actions is provided further below.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself on 0437 315 198.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Guido', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Guido
Illawarra Regional Director
Property Council of Australia

Opportunity	Property Council Response
<p>3.2.1 Connected</p> <p>Objective 1 – Increased population within a 30-minute public transport trip of a regionally significant centre</p> <p>Objective 2 – Connectivity between Metro Wollongong and Greater Sydney by public transport is efficient, reliable, comfortable and safe</p> <p>Objective 3 – Future residents of regionally significant growth areas are within a 30-minute public transport trip of a regionally significant centre</p> <p>Objective 4 – Maintain reliable north-south, east-west transport spines</p>	<p>Support in principle – with recommendations.</p> <p>We support in principle the vision to improve public transport journey times across the region and ensure that it becomes a viable option for more areas in the region.</p> <p><u>Roads</u></p> <p>Providing better connectivity across the region, as well shorter travel times to significant regional centres and Metro Wollongong is vital to support the future growth of the region and we support the initiatives outlined. It is great to see Transport for NSW delivering key projects like the Albion Park Bypass, Berry to Bomaderry upgrade and Nowra Bridge Project.</p> <p>We also welcome the announcement of a new interchange at Mount Ousley to improve safety and improve travel times. This is a project in which has been required for some time and is one that is supported by Property Council to improve safety and traffic associated with this area. It is also a project that is crucial for providing more efficient road access for operations of the Port at Port Kembla, with the ability to move freight to and from the Gateway having a direct effect on the economic performance of NSW.</p> <p>We also support the Picton Road Upgrade to connect fundamental roads and provide one efficient and direct road connection between Port Kembla and Western Sydney. We support the recommendation put forward by RDA Illawarra which recommends the acceleration and delivery of both these projects within the next five years to be completed by 2026.</p> <p><u>Rail</u></p> <p>Connectivity between Metro Wollongong and Greater Sydney will become even more vital as the areas of South Western Sydney and Western Sydney continue to grow with acceleration of housing in these areas increasing, providing further opportunities for investment, business attraction and jobs.</p> <p>We would like to see a detailed blueprint in relation to the Fast Rail Network Strategy for NSW and further upgrades for the South Coast Rail Line, with greater frequency of services and express services from the region to Greater Sydney. A plan for improving mobile connectivity for all commuters, comfort and access is also welcomed for this rail corridor and we look forward to further upgrades being delivered.</p> <p>We also welcome the electrification of the Kiama-Bomaderry Rail Line and would like to see Transport for NSW assess the opportunity to extend rail links southwards to Nowra, creating better connectivity for the</p>

	<p>people living in the region and for people travelling to and from the region to Greater Sydney. This will also be vital in servicing the growth areas of West Lake Illawarra and Nowra/Bomaderry as they continue to grow.</p> <p>Overall, we support the improvement projects that have been identified in the Draft Transport Plan for delivery including the Maldon to Dombarton Line Completion, other rail improvements between Moss Vale to Unanderra and to Coniston Junction. These projects are even more critical for the future growth of freight movements and rail access to Port Kembla which is recognised by Infrastructure Australia.</p> <p>In addition, we encourage Transport for NSW to also consider in more detail the Maldon Dombarton Rail Link (South West Illawarra Rail Link) and the recent work undertaken by the University of Wollongong’s SMART Infrastructure Facility, commissioned by the Illawarra Business Chamber. We understand that this report outlines the importance for further investigations and analysis to occur within the next 10 years for this rail link to support the growing needs of the region and the State. Transport for NSW should reconsider the timeframes outlined in conjunction with the research undertaken.</p> <p>We note advocacy efforts from local councils together with industry bodies in relation to the South West Illawarra Rail Link, and the importance of this transport link to provide passenger and freight access from South Western Sydney to the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. This is also another aspect of the Illawarra Shoalhaven City Deal which has been identified for investment from local, state and federal governments.</p> <p>Lastly, as we have already outlined in our submission to the <i>Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan</i>, we support the objective outlined in this strategy to protect major freight corridors to protect existing and future freight networks that service the Port of Port Kembla and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven more broadly. This could be strengthened by including the protection and inclusion of the Maldon-Dombarton rail corridor within the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Infrastructure Corridors) 2020</i>.</p>
<p>3.2.2 Safe</p> <p>Objective 1 – Proactively address road safety deficiencies and high-risk sections on the road network across the Illawarra Shoalhaven</p> <p>Objective 2 – Crash clusters are addressed</p>	<p>Support in Principle.</p> <p>We support the initiatives outlined in the strategy to ensure our roads are safe, crash clusters are addressed and any improvement work is undertaken to address these challenges.</p>

<p>Objective 3 – Speed zones support improved safety outcomes for all customers</p> <p>Objective 4 – Utilise technology to improve safety outcomes</p>	
<p>3.2.3 Liveable</p> <p>Objective 1 – A transport network that enables successful places</p> <p>Objective 2 – A transport network accessible to all customers, regardless of age, ability and income</p> <p>Objective 3 – Improved travel information and legibility for all customers</p>	<p>Support in Principle – with recommendations.</p> <p>We support the initiatives outlined in these objectives.</p> <p>Most importantly we support the development of a Place Based Transport Plan for both Metro Wollongong and Nowra City Centre in conjunction with NSW Government agencies. As both these CBDs continue to grow and cater for business, education institutions and residents who live in the CBDs it is critical that Transport for NSW work closely with local councils to ensure that the plans align with local strategic planning work underway. Property Council has been advocating for a Metro Transport Plan for Wollongong and Nowra CBDs for some time, so it is encouraging to see this initiative included in the strategy. We encourage Transport for NSW to provide an action plan with a timeframe for delivery and look forward to being part of the discussions on this important initiative.</p>
<p>3.2.4 Adaptive</p> <p>Objective 1 – Increase the number of trips made by walking, cycling and public transport across the Illawarra-Shoalhaven</p> <p>Objective 2 – Facilitate the fleet transition to emissions-free technology</p> <p>Objective 3 – Embrace technology to reduce the need for travel</p>	<p>Support in Principle.</p> <p>Overall, we support the initiatives outlined and support any projects to increase in public transport options for our local communities across the region. We look forward to working with Transport for NSW on the development of these initiatives and provide input on behalf of the property industry.</p>
<p>3.2.5 Productive</p>	<p>Support in Principle – with recommendations.</p> <p>As mentioned above, road and rail connectivity will be vital to the future economic development of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven and ensuring freight access and movement to Greater Sydney. This is also outlined in</p>

<p>Objective 1 – Roads support the efficient movement of freight to, from and within the region</p> <p>Objective 2 – Rail supports the efficient movement of freight to, from and within the region</p> <p>Objective 3 – First-and-last mile barriers are resolved to support successful places</p>	<p>detail in the Illawarra Shoalhaven City Deal prospectus which identifies key transformative transport infrastructure projects to achieve this and are supported by Property Council.</p> <p>The upgrade of Picton Road and Mt Ousley are immediate priorities and should be funded for completion in the short to medium term. These projects are critical for improving road connectivity. Rail projects as outlined above will also be critical and we support further investigation and acceleration of the development of a business case for the South West Illawarra Rail Link as outlined in the City Deal prospectus.</p> <p>Lastly, we support the initiatives outlined to address the first and last-mile barriers to support successful places. It would make sense for these initiatives to be included as part of the Action Plan which with deliverables included as we note that these are missing. Consistent policy settings at all levels of government will also be crucial to resolving the challenges and maximising freight connectivity.</p>
<p>3.2.6 Resilient</p> <p>Objective 1 – Build greater resilience into the transport network</p> <p>Objective 2 – Planned network disruptions are communicated early and clearly</p> <p>Objective 3 – Utilise technology to improve network resilience</p>	<p>Support in Principle.</p> <p>We support the initiatives proposed to improve the resilience of the road and rail networks which provide access to the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. As we saw in 2020, when tragic bushfires hit our region, key transport routes were majorly impacted, and this created many challenges for residents and businesses. We need to learn from these experiences and build resilience into our network to address extreme weather events and other unplanned interruptions.</p>