



NSROC PRESS RELEASE 13 November 2009

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN SYDNEY COUNCILS' TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

Member for Bennelong and Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, Ms Maxine McKew MP, urged local councils to take stronger leadership in transport reforms for Sydney.

In an address to the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) last night she stated that the Federal Government expected more direct approaches from councils, and particularly regional alliances of councils, in integrated transport planning proposals being formulated by the Major Cities Unit established by the Prime Minister.

NSROC, which represents seven northern Sydney Councils – Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby - had robust discussions with Ms McKew on the abandonment of key infrastructure projects in the region including the North West and Epping to Parramatta rail links.

Newly elected NSROC President, Mayor Nick Berman of Hornsby, said ["The Northern Sydney region is entering an important period where a number of outstanding issues must be addressed. This is possibly a once in a generation opportunity to get things right."](#)

["The lack of important road and transport infrastructure in the fast-growing North-west sector is having an increasingly negative impact on Northern Sydney. Ultimately this is a problem which will affect people who live well outside of this region. We will look to work with Hills Shire Council and other affected parties to ensure that the required level of infrastructure is provided."](#)

Mayor Berman succeeds former NSROC President Pat Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby, who has led the organisation for over a decade. ["Pat's contribution to championing the region has been substantial and highly valued by all our member councils"](#) said Clr Berman. Clr Reilly did not contest the role of President but was elected as Vice President along with re-elected Vice President, Mayor Sue Hoopmann of Hunter's Hill Council.

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