

MAYORS ON BOARD WITH NEW \$633 MILLION NORTHERN BEACHES TRANSPORT PLAN

17 June 2014

"Today is a fantastic day for the northern beaches and north shore," said SHOROC President and Pittwater Mayor Cr Jacqueline Townsend, welcoming the NSW Government's \$633 million Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan.

"Our region will benefit enormously from the record funding for a modern and sustainable public transport system and major road upgrades.

"The community has been calling for these improvements for decades and Premier Baird's government has delivered.

"Fantastically we'll soon see a fast and reliable Bus Rapid Transit system with 'turn up and go' frequency from Mona Vale to the city and in the peak from Dee Why to Chatswood.

"We'll see Warringah Road traffic freed up with \$400million in road works including major underpasses removing the choke points with the Wakehurst Parkway and Forest Way.

"And critically we'll see planning start for a tunnel to link the northern beaches with the Warringah Freeway and bypass the Spit Bridge bottleneck, and planning continue for Mona Vale Road and the Wakehurst Parkway.

"Outstandingly this plan delivers all the transport priorities identified by the councils through SHOROC in our regional strategy *Shaping Our Future*.

"I congratulate the Premier Baird, Minister Berejiklian and Minister Gay for this plan to address our chronic traffic and public transport issues.

"In particular I acknowledge the leadership shown by our local NSW MPs including Premier Baird as well as The Hon Jillian Skinner MP, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, The Hon Rob Stokes MP and Member for Davidson Jonathan O'Dea MP to bring this plan to fruition.

"We have been working productively with our local MPs and Transport for NSW to develop an integrated transport plan for this region. The results speak volumes for the benefits that can come from a strong state and local government partnership on a regional level.

The ultimate goal of the *Shaping Our Future* strategy is to improve the liveability of the region.

"This plan will make an enormous difference for our communities. Modern and sustainable public transport and less congestion will give us more time to enjoy all this region has to offer, which will be terrific for local businesses, our health and our environment.

"There still a lot of work to be done to get this plan delivered on the ground.

"We look forward to working in partnership with our local MPs and Transport for NSW to implement the plan appropriately and in the best interests of the communities across the region," Cr Townsend said.