

MEDIA RELEASE



SHOROC COUNCILS LOBBY FEDERAL MEMBERS ON COMMONWEALTH FUNDING FOR HEALTH AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS

20 June 2012

SHOROC Mayors and General Managers seized the opportunity to lobby federal members, Tony Abbott and Bronwyn Bishop at a meeting to discuss potential commonwealth support for the Northern Beaches Hospitals, road upgrades and Bus Rapid Transit system. The Mayors and General Managers had travelled to Canberra this week to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government conference.

President of SHOROC and Manly Mayor Jean Hay led discussions at a meeting at Parliament House that saw the four Mayors and General Managers seeking an undertaking from Mr Abbott and Mrs Bishop to support the proposed road upgrades and Bus Rapid Transit system for the Northern Beaches consistent with the SHOROC *Shaping Our Future* proposal and to reconfirm it's commitment of funding for Brookvale Oval.

"We went to Canberra seeking an undertaking from Mr Abbott and Mrs Bishop to support the need for these hospital road upgrades and our Bus Rapid Transit proposal" said Mayor Hay. "It makes a difference when you can make the case for region to federal members personally. It was time well-spent."

"We told them the councils are collectively doing everything we can to get the job done to improve health and transport infrastructure for our region" said Mayor Hay. "We've made solid progress with the state government's commitment to build the new hospital by 2014 and pre-feasibility studies for the Bus Rapid Transit system, but we need commonwealth support."

The SHOROC councils at the meeting asked Mr Abbott "if the Coalition was elected to government in the upcoming election, is there a potential for commonwealth support for road upgrades around the new hospital site and Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure and will the Coalition reconfirm its commitment of funding for Brookvale Oval."

"We went together to Canberra to personally present our case to members of Parliament, to explain the issues around the road upgrades for the new hospital site at Frenchs Forest, particularly for the intersections of Warringah Road with Wakehurst Parkway and Forest Way" said Mayor Hay.

"At our meeting last year with Mr Abbott and Mrs Bishop, they indicated their support for a Bus Rapid Transit system for the Northern Beaches." Mayor Hay said.

"We are pleased to have met again one year later when the state government is about to release its report outlining potential options for the proposed BRT system for community consultation" said Mayor Hay. "There was a positive feeling that progress had been made at the meeting."

"The councils are working with the NSW Government and collectively doing what we can to get the job done, it would be great to have the commonwealth as our partners" Mayor Hay said at the meeting.

The General Managers also held meetings with Mr Abbott's Director of Policy and advisor to Anthony Albanese Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

Ends

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Shore Regional Organisation of Councils – a partnership of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Councils.

