

# MEDIA ALERT



## **SHIRE DELEGATES UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORT FOR EXPRESSWAY**

**Chairperson**  
Hon. Ian Armstrong OBE MP  
**Secretary**  
Bob Roach

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Local government councils from the Blue Mountains to the Queensland border have given overwhelming support to the proposed 4-lane divided expressway across the Blue Mountains to link inland NSW with Western Sydney.

Delegates representing 10 councils at the C Division conference of the Shires Association of NSW in Gilgandra on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution from the Narromine Shire Council backing the expressway.

The resolution called on the Shires Association to vigorously pursue the construction of the expressway along the route of the Bells Line of Road and strongly promote the value of the expressway to rural, regional, metropolitan and coastal regions of NSW.

Support for the expressway now spans more than 50 per cent of the State with shire delegates from the Central West, Far West and North West regions calling for the construction of what is a vital piece of road transport infrastructure.

The issue will now be discussed at the 2007 Shires Association Conference.

Chairman of the Bells Line Expressway Group, Ian Armstrong, who addressed conference delegates on the economic benefits of the project, welcomed the unanimous support. "This strong show of support backs up the support already demonstrated by the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Cowra, Forbes, Oberon, Weddin, Dubbo and Lachlan shire councils."

Mr Armstrong said that with the release of corridor studies in mid-2006, delegates recognised the need to maintain pressure on all politicians facing State and Federal elections this year.

"It is incumbent upon present and future Federal and State governments to focus beyond the Sydney basin and initiate population distribution strategies to take the pressure off Sydney's growth and to boost rural and regional areas west of the Blue Mountains."

Ends

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