

1.8 Mayoral Minute - M1 Ramp at Wyong

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On 15 November 2012, Mr Darren Webber MP, Member for Wyong and myself met with the Chief of Staff to Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MP, and discussed the possibility of providing a northbound entry ramp to the M1 Pacific Motorway (formerly F3 Freeway) at Wyong, in the vicinity of the existing emergency access facility north of Alison Road.

Northbound access to the M1 at this location will reduce traffic congestion on Pacific Highway at Tuggerah and Wyong by diverting northbound drivers with an origin or destination in the Wyong Township and adjoining suburbs away from the Tuggerah Interchange. The proposal would also reduce response times for emergency services vehicles based in Wyong (such as police, ambulance and fire services) by providing alternative access to the M1. It would also lower traffic volumes on Hue Hue Road, which has a poor accident history.

The proposal will not involve substantial road works in the Freeway and on Hue Hue Road.

The Chief of Staff was extremely supportive of the proposal and indicated that the State Government would consider funding, in conjunction with the Federal Government, to further develop the project.

Council staff should now work closely with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) staff at its Woy Woy office to develop a concept design and estimate of cost for the project with a view to a seeking financial assistance from the State and Federal Government for the delivery of the proposal.

Investigations should also include a concept design and estimates for improvements to Old Maitland Road between Yarramalong Road and Wyong Road, to also improve southbound access to the M1 motorway, thereby taking advantage of the improvement works currently being constructed by RMS at the existing M1 interchange at Tuggerah.

I formally move:

- 1 That Council reiterate its support for the need for a Freeway connection to Alison Road, in order to provide expedited emergency services, and request the General Manager to formally advise the Minister for Roads and Ports.**
- 2 That Council request the General Manager to direct staff from Council's Asset Management Unit to arrange a meeting with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to initiate preliminary investigations into the feasibility of constructing a northbound entry ramp to the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wyong in the vicinity of the existing emergency access facility and the availability of funding to cover the cost of this investigation work.**

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- 3 That Council request the General Manager to direct staff from Council's Asset Management Unit to work with RMS to develop concept designs and cost estimates for the project, subject to the external costs being met by State and Federal Government Funding .**
- 4 That Council request the General Manager to direct staff to write to the Federal Government seeking their funding for the delivery of the proposal.**
- 5 That Council request the General Manager to direct staff to investigate and report on a concept design to improve Old Maitland Road and its connectedness to the M1 at Cobbs Road, Tuggerah.**