



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Motions

25 May 2017

GLENDALE INTERCHANGE FUNDING

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:54): I move:

That this House:

- (1)Notes the Premier nominated local infrastructure as a major priority for her premiership.
- (2)Notes that the Glendale Interchange, identified by all Hunter mayors as the number one Hunter region infrastructure priority, has not been funded by the Government.
- (3)Calls on the Premier to fund the interchange in the 2017 budget.

When the Premier assumed office this year, she announced local infrastructure as a key government priority, along with affordable housing and a strong State economy. She said:

I am not talking just about those mega projects in Sydney, as important as they are, but I am talking about making sure every community gets what it needs.

Well, Premier, the Wallsend electorate and the Greater Hunter need the Glendale transport interchange. The interchange is a key piece of infrastructure for the broader Hunter region. It is recognised by Hunter mayors as the number one infrastructure priority. The first section of the interchange opens in June, and council is now looking for State and Federal government funding for the construction of the \$32 million Pennant Street bridge. In order to complete the project, State government funding and support are absolutely necessary. The business case is clear: once finished, the Pennant Street bridge will deliver a return of \$4 for every \$1 invested.

The Glendale interchange is a perfect example of the kind of infrastructure we need to be delivered in the twenty-first century. It creates a stronger transport mix to alleviate congestion and improve travel flexibility, generating connectivity between communities, which will in turn drive growth and innovation. Lake Macquarie mayor Kay Fraser said, "This part of the project is critical for the growth of our city." The Property Council of Australia has promoted the Glendale interchange as a priority project for funding in the next State Government budget. The project has drawn support from the NRMA, Hunter councils and the Hunter Business Chamber as well as Regional Development Australia. Needless to say, these stakeholders do not always share priorities. Their support is a symbol of how crucial the Glendale interchange is to our region.

The Pennant Street bridge is shovel ready. It connects Glendale with Cardiff over the main northern rail line. It directly links the bustling retail hub at Glendale with the industrial and commercial centre of Cardiff. "The project has the potential to create affordable housing for nearly 5,000 residents and 3,800 new jobs in this emerging strategic centre", said Lake Macquarie City Council general manager Brian Bell. The Glendale interchange represents a hat-trick by the Premier's own metric—a key piece of local infrastructure that will open up land for affordable housing and generate thousands of new jobs, thus reducing our regional unemployment rate, which is what we all want.

It goes without saying that this represents a major boom for local communities, particularly for us in the Hunter. "This infrastructure project has the potential to establish Glendale to Cardiff as the Hunter's new employment superhub and regional transport interchange", said Andrew Fletcher, Hunter director of the Property Council of Australia. Indeed, the Glendale to Cardiff area was identified by the State Government as an emerging strategic centre, located on the main northern rail line with easy access from the heart of Newcastle and from the Central Coast and Sydney. Glendale-Cardiff has the potential to become a retail and services hub as the broader Hunter transitions into a twenty-first century mixed economy.

The mayor of Lake Macquarie, Kay Fraser, sums it up. She says:

What does that mean for residents of Lake Macquarie? The benefits are many: shorter and smoother journeys between suburbs, more local jobs, new residential opportunities in an increasingly desirable area with unmatched access to other parts of the region, and economic development that will have substantial flow-on effects for local businesses and industries.

Lake Macquarie City Council is seeking \$13 million from the State Government, and it is expected that matching funds from the Federal Government will follow. It is high time for us to work together to secure the funding needed to ensure the interchange is completed. The project is too important to the future of the Hunter to be left unfunded and incomplete. I call on the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure to fund the Glendale transport interchange and the Pennant Street Bridge. As the economic case has made so clear, it will be a win-win for all involved and all of the Hunter community.

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (13:28): In reply: I thank the members for Terrigal, Lake Macquarie, Seven Hills, Charlestown, Drummoyne, and Port Stephens for their contributions to this debate. It is important that this project be funded. The State Government says that it is committed to the Hunter. If that is true, it should fund projects across the Hunter, not only in Newcastle, and that includes the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange.