

6 Ordinary Business

6.1 General Reports

6.1.1 South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy Membership

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Recommendation(s)

That Council support the membership proposal to re-join South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy (SEATS).

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy (SEATS) has approached Council to re-join the organisation. Cardinia was a member of SEATS for a number of years prior to a Council resolution in 2011 to not renew the membership. As a Council resolution was undertaken, to re-establish the membership, a motion from Council is required.

Background

SEATS is an advocating body for local government transport infrastructure and has been operating for over 25 years. They have developed the South East Transport Strategy which collectively identifies a number of Priority Projects that go beyond the boundaries of individual local councils and benefits the entire region. Their goal is to advocate for an effective integrated transport network that stimulates economic growth that is sustainable and sensitive to the environment and enhances communities.

In 2011, Council left SEATS, primarily due to our transport needs relating to metropolitan Melbourne rather than the south east seaboard corridor. However with the current advocacy needs for Cardinia, such as Thomson Road extension and the South East Airport, and the change of scope for SEATS, it is considered that a year prescription would allow Council to establish the value of participating. If considered a beneficial partnership, further years can be joined.

SEATS has indicated that they can assist Cardinia Shire in advocacy such as:

- Federal Election advocacy – Monash and La Trobe electorates
- advocating for “Active Transport” including rail trail, walking tracks, bike lanes.
- advocating for EV charging networks
- advocating for Princes Highway road upgrades
- advocating for the South Gippsland Highway
- advocating for road safety
- advocating for south east airport

In joining SEATS, Council will work with them on Cardinia’s aspiration and direct advocacy requirements.

Policy Implications

There are no Policy Implication with this membership proposal.

Relevance to Council Plan

3.2 Our Environment - Transport linkages connecting towns

3.2.5 Advocate for and facilitate improved public transport options and major arterial roads to help link employment, educational, recreational and retail activities between the Shire's rural and growth areas.

5.4 Our Governance - Appropriate funding and support from all levels of government

5.4.1 Advocate on behalf of the community to ensure it receives a fair share of funding and support from the Australian and Victorian governments for infrastructure, facilities and services.

5.4.2 Work with both interface and regional Councils to strengthen advocacy campaigns to Australian and Victorian governments aimed at increasing awareness and support for joint issues.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There is no Climate Emergency consideration with this membership proposal.

Consultation/Communication

There is no requirement for consultation with this membership proposal.

Financial and Resource Implications

Based upon Cardinia Shire population size and Gross Regional Product, the membership fee is \$7280.00 including GST per annum.

This amount can be absorbed within budget.

Conclusion

It is considered that SEATS will strengthen Councils advocacy campaigns in relation to infrastructure, it is therefore recommended that Council re-joins SEATS.