

GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote

MEDIA RELEASE

Independent Heathcote Candidate sets policy on Princes Highway Heathcote traffic bottleneck after meeting agrees on road ahead

30 January 2011



Greg Petty is listening to the Heathcote Electorate. On the same weekend the much maligned duplicate Iron Cove Bridge project was scheduled to open, the Heathcote Independent Candidate was chairing a meeting in Heathcote to think tank a solution to the town's traffic bottleneck.

Many townspeople and road commuters have been frustrated with the game of political football over the many back flips as a solution was sought for the long traffic queues of northbound traffic on the Princes Highway. At times this has stretched to Waterfall and beyond, in the morning peak, Sunday afternoon and public holidays.

Mr Petty came to Heathcote, the town which the name of the electorate bears, to hear the views of the residents, community, business owners and road commuters. The meeting suggested a number of potential solutions, and general consensus for a unified approach, that Mr Petty is pleased to embrace for the upcoming State electorate as the Independent Candidates policy.

Overwhelmingly, the meeting did not want a clearway, when the long term solution is to build the extension of the F6 Freeway from Waterfall to Kirrawee but preferably to Taren Point. The NRMA has consistently stated the F6 extension through southern Sydney would help boost the NSW economy and should be a priority in government budgets.

Road safety, particularly for pedestrians, traffic congestion and most importantly increasing traffic volumes from the Illawarra growth areas such as Dapto West and Albion Park, demands the F6 extension be built. Pedestrian safety in crossing the highway was of paramount concern of the townspeople in particular school children and commuters going to the railway station and schools.

The key to addressing the current traffic congestion and safety concerns was a number of small key targeted proposals that when combined, the attendees saw as essential to addressing the current concerns of all parties.

1. Build an underpass for pedestrian traffic, including appropriate security,
2. No pedestrian access across highway at the intersection of Princes Highway and Oliver Street,
3. Reset the speed limit to at least 60 kph and investigate variable speed limit for peak times, and
4. Speed enforcement, including fixed or mobile speed cameras.

The Independent Candidate for Heathcote stated "I am pleased to embrace this outcome as the first step in a process to resolve the traffic congestion that is the Princes Highway Heathcote. Other parties must now consider if they are to bear the wrath of the Heathcote community if they cannot at least match this set of proposals".

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