

**EC4 – Rail Symposium**

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**Rail Symposium**

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TRIM 10093

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to advise of a proposal for Council to hold a Rail Symposium on 9 November 2017.
- It is recommended that Council approve a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the purpose of conducting the Rail Symposium with funds to be provided from the Tourism & Economic Development Restricted Cash Account.

**REPORT**

The development of rail transport is a critical issue for our Shire and also for the Southwest District of Sydney. With the future development of a new town at Wilton, the potential and importance of rail transport is even greater.

The aim of the proposed Rail Symposium is to bring key stakeholders together to discuss and raise awareness about:

- The importance of rail as a key element of our future transport infrastructure framework (at the National, State, Regional and Local level).
- Key rail projects and ideas with a focus on Wollondilly and its neighbouring regions (eg. High Speed Rail, Maldon-Dombarton or “SWIRL”, the North South Rail concept, a rail link to Wilton New Town).
- The status of these proposals.
- How best to advance and advocate for rail transport outcomes.

A number of speakers will present on various rail related topics on the day. Former Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer, a passionate advocate for rail, is scheduled to be a keynote speaker. We are aiming to have representatives from Federal, State and Local Government, academic representatives, industry representatives and interested community members. Numbers will be restricted due to venue limitations so attendance is likely to be by invite and registration only with a limit on available seats.

The Rail Symposium is to be held from 3:00pm to 7:00pm Thursday 9 November 2017 at the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere.

Significant media interest in the event is anticipated.

**EC4 – Rail Symposium**

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No funding has been allocated for the Rail Symposium in Council's current budgets.

It is anticipated that the costs of holding the Symposium could be up to \$10,000 (this would include venue hire, speakers' fees, catering, promotions etc.). It is proposed that this funding be sourced from the Tourism & Economic Development Restricted Cash Account.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the purpose of conducting the Rail Symposium with funds to be provided from the Tourism & Economic Development Restricted Cash Account.