

30 March 2025

Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP  
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads



Dear Minister Aitchison (Jenny),

## **Response to Roads Act Review 1993 – Have your say**

I write on behalf of the members of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) in response to the Roads Act Review 1993 Issues Paper - Have your Say request on 14 February 2025. We agree in principle to the targeted objectives for improvement which include:

- More contemporary uses for roads and streets that are safe and responsive to community needs.
- Faster local decision making with appropriate mitigations to manage network risk.
- A streamlined and easy to use statute that keeps pace with change.
- A more operationally effective statute.

The Transport for NSW Issues paper asked Councils to respond to twenty four questions relating to the identified issues. It has been noted that this was a large undertaking for councils, particularly those with shared positions or staffing shortages. Many of our REROC councils have responded independently and the REROC Board fully support their submissions and additionally align with the Country Mayors Association (CMA) provided submission.

The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) has seven member councils and one Water Council including Bland Shire Council LGA, Coolamon Shire Council LGA, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council LGA, Greater Hume Shire Council LGA, Junee Shire LGA, Lockhart Shire Council LGA and Temora Shire Council LGA.

REROC member councils have been working collaboratively to achieve optimal outcomes for our regions roads for more than 30 years. We have an established Infrastructure Technical Working group who partner with NSW Transport, Region South and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). This group meets regularly for the collective optimization of our road and transport systems in the Eastern Riverina region.

Since 2015, the REROC Infrastructure Technical Working group has done a lot of work on optimizing the regional transport system and identifying key issues and constraints, and importantly, opportunities for improvement. A key outcome of this work is the mapping of Regional Freight Transport systems in the Eastern Riverina. These developed maps outline local

Highways, Routes, Railways, Network constraints and Alternate Route constraints across the region.

The data provided in the maps can be accessed at Link: <https://reroc.giscloud.com/>.

The mapping tool allows users to switch each of the layers on and off in order to overlay information to provide data pictures for the region. When you enter the mapping tool, it will take you directly to the Regional Freight Transport map.

Our REROC member councils wish to ensure that regional information, and the significant importance of working collaboratively across regional boundaries, is carefully considered in the overall review process.

REROC believes strongly that the three key influences that contribute to TfNSW road network decision-making should be an equal balance between economic productivity, road infrastructure and general safety.

For some time, REROC member councils have noticed that these three factors are not in equilibrium. Economic productivity (larger and heavier trucks) appears to have taken the greatest emphasis when it comes to making road network decisions. These decisions seem to be made with diminishing concern for the capacity of supporting infrastructure or indeed general user safety. This is particularly evident in regional locations.

The REROC Board strongly advocates for a recalibration of discussion about these three factors that are interlinked and should be equally considered in all decision-making about our regional road network.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The REROC member Councils would welcome the opportunity to provide additional feedback on our comments and contribute to improvements to the Road Act Review 1993 throughout the process.

To enable this to happen, the REROC Board cordially invites NSW Transport to hold a focussed Roads Act Review 1993 Forum in our region. This opportunity would provide easier access for regional council staff members to attend and allow for genuine discussion and active contribution to the final document.

Yours Sincerely,



Cr Rick Firman OAM  
Chairman