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**Future Transport 2056 – Allshelter Group Submission**

Allshelter Group is a manufacturing company situated based in western NSW. We manufacture shelter systems for multiple industry and government sectors in both national and export markets. The growth and sustainability of our business and other regional manufacturing enterprises is dependent on efficient road transport. Extra travelling time impacts heavily on transport costs of finished products that primarily go to the Sydney area for distribution nationally and internationally, and the transport of raw material back to us in the other direction.

In Lake Cargelligo alone manufacturing enterprises turn over in excess of \$40M annually, and the employment opportunities this sector brings to rural areas needs to be given due consideration by the NSW Government. Steady employment in a small town like ours stems the drift of younger people to larger population areas as well as providing job opportunities for the local indigenous population.

The lack of a proper dual lane highway over or under the Blue Mountains has a significant negative effect on doing business, and also on the quality of life, in the Central West. To be quite frank some recent improvements to the Great Western Highway may have made the road marginally safer, but they have done little to reduce travelling times for those of us who, along with our employees, have to traverse it regularly for activities such as sales, promotions and attendance at meetings. The multiplicity of different speed zones and traffic lights still make it a difficult, dangerous, and time consuming road to travel on. For those of us who have to drive for between 6 and 7 hours by road to get to Sydney, the benefit that the extra 30 minutes travelling saved by an expressway following the Bells Line of Road are almost immeasurable, especially in terms of driver fatigue.

The State and Federal governments should put more effort into making the centre of NSW a more attractive and viable area to live and do business in. No state or nation remains strong or grows without decentralisation, and an efficient transport network, with the USA and various European countries being prime examples of this.

The F2 and the Hume Highway linking Sydney to the North and to the South of the state also demonstrate the way that the construction of efficient road corridors results in significant growth in the geographical areas that they serve. As far as I can see Future Transport 2056 doesn't include a 1<sup>st</sup> world class transport corridor, for either road or rail, through the Blue Mountains and ultimately to the transport hub at Parkes. Plan for it, execute it, and the Western districts of NSW will prosper and grow.

Kind Regards



**Doug Reddel** – Director

M: 0458 100 900 | E: [doug.r@allsheltergroup.com.au](mailto:doug.r@allsheltergroup.com.au)

**Head Office and Manufacturing:** PO Box 116 | Lot 12 Narrandera Street | Lake Cargelligo NSW 2672

**Sales and Distribution:** 19 John Street | Lawson NSW 2783