

**Submission
No 7**

SYDNEY METRO WEST PROJECT

Organisation: Audit Office of New South Wales

Date Received: 31 August 2023

Ms Lynda Voltz MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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31 August 2023

Dear Ms Voltz

Inquiry into the Sydney Metro West project

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure – Inquiry into the Sydney Metro West project. I wish to draw your attention to the findings of our past performance audits that may be relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference.

Our report on the [Government's acquisition of private property: Sydney Metro project](#), tabled in February 2023, assessed the effectiveness of the acquisition of private properties for the Sydney Metro project. The audit found that the acquisitions of private property for the Sydney Metro project were mostly effective in the sample of acquisitions that were assessed. The audit also found that Sydney Metro:

- had complied with legislative and policy requirements for compensation and communication with people subject to property acquisitions
- kept accurate records of its acquisitions and applied probity controls consistently
- did not complete detailed plans or negotiation strategies for the high-risk and high-value acquisitions we reviewed
- did not comply with legislative timelines for most compulsory acquisitions because of delays in receiving the required information from the Valuer General in these cases.


Other performance audit reports that may provide useful contextual information include:

- [Audit Insights 2018–2022](#) (2022)
- [Acquisition of 4–6 Grand Avenue, Camellia](#) (2020)
- [WestConnex: changes since 2014](#) (2021)
- [CBD South East Sydney Light Rail: follow-up performance audit](#) (2020)
- [Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program](#) (2018)
- [Northconnex](#) (2017)
- [CBD and South East Light Rail Project](#) (2016)
- [WestConnex: Assurance to the Government](#) (2014)

I also note that there is a performance audit of Sydney Metro in our [Annual Work Program 2023-2026](#), scheduled to be undertaken between 2024-26..

Thank you once again for the invitation to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Ian Goodwin
A/Auditor-General for New South Wales