

**Submission
No 13**

SYDNEY METRO WEST PROJECT

Organisation: City of Parramatta Council

Date Received: 18 September 2023

Legislative Assembly
Committee on Transport and Infrastructure

Email:
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Attention: Stephanie Mulvey

Our Reference F2018/00684

Contact Gail Connolly

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18 September 2023

Dear Chairperson,

RE: Submission by City of Parramatta Council - Inquiry into Sydney Metro West project

In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, the City of Parramatta Council (Council) is pleased to offer this submission in support of the Sydney Metro West project (Project).

Metro mass transit and increased residential density – additional stations

A feature of the Project has been the target travel time of 20 minutes between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. However, the Metro West line has the potential to include more stations, balanced against a slightly longer but still very reasonable travel time to the Sydney CBD. The Metro West asset must work harder to realise the benefits and compensate for the cost of the Project.

Since the initiation of the Project, Council has consistently advocated for a Metro station at Camellia, where the NSW Government, through the Department of Planning and Environment and supported by Council, is currently working through a rezoning proposal for up to 10,000 dwellings. A Metro station at Camellia would connect to Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail and a potential Stage 2, increasing the Metro service catchment. For the NSW Government to achieve a high-quality transit-oriented town centre at Camellia, a Metro station is required.

Similarly, Council advocates for a Metro station at Newington on the proposed alignment. A longer but convenient travel time is deemed acceptable in exchange for better public transport access and increased housing supply.

Longer-term thinking

Sydney faces huge population growth challenges over the coming decades. A steady, well-planned supply of housing to suit a variety of needs will be required. Part of that demand can be met through high density living along mass transit (Metro) corridors, hence Council's strong support for stations at Camellia and Newington.

Of course, well-planned, liveable residential density takes time to deliver in brownfield environments, but stations must be provided now to meet future needs and must not be deferred.

There exists the capacity for the NSW Government to plan for and deliver full Metro stations, or at a minimum, future-proof their provision within the current alignment or with strategic realignment to service planned high density development such as the future Camellia town centre. We understand current budget pressures, however Council advocates a long-term view on the Sydney Metro West

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project – this Project will underpin and sustain Greater Parramatta well into the 2100's. Integrated planning in conjunction with the development industry could realise an income stream to support the Project over the longer term.

Delivery timing

Council accepts that the addition of stations, particularly at Camellia, requiring a route realignment, will add time to the Project operation and increase costs. In relation to costs, longer-term thinking of the benefits of the Project as above is reiterated.

It is imperative for industry, stakeholder and community certainty that the Inquiry results and recommendations are clear-eyed and timely, with well-informed decision-making minimising Project, contract negotiation and construction program delays.

At stations such as the Parramatta CBD, strong consideration should be given to alignment of over-station development with the station box work to ensure that fit-outs can be staged where possible but related development can also proceed. This ensure that public area works can be completed, and CBD operation can return to some normality and effectiveness.

The disruption to and impact on business areas of the Project over the long term cannot be underestimated, and whilst delays may occur, the NSW Government should also give strong consideration to significantly boosting funding for business activation and place making during construction.

This gesture will go some way to assisting the Project's acceptance in the community. Council will collaborate with Sydney Metro West in this activation.

Metro network planning and governance

Council supports any proposal arising from the Inquiry to consolidate Sydney Metro functions so there is a single authority/department managing all aspects of planning and delivery of the Metro network. That is, the authority would manage all aspects of the existing and future expanded Metro network from corridor identification and protection, land use planning, land acquisition, design and construction, supporting property development, place making etc.

Council supports an imprimatur for all State agencies and a Metro Authority to work together effectively on the common goal of infrastructure planning, open space provision and place making to support well-planned high density residential development serviced by the Metro network.

Program development - benefits of linking Parramatta CBD and Western Sydney Airport

Parramatta is the commercial heart of Western Sydney and will be directly serviced by Sydney Metro West. The *Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study Outcomes Report* March 2018 (Study) found that there are strong economic grounds for an East-West Link that will connect the three cities and support a broader Western Sydney Airport catchment.

The Study concluded that a rapid metro train would provide greater benefits than an express service as it would support both airport customers and people's daily travel in Western Sydney. The Study found a metro service offers a competitive journey time compared to road or a comparable suburban rail service.

To support the extensive planned growth eastwards from the Western Sydney Airport, and to avoid reliance on connections to the Parramatta and Sydney CBDs by suburban heavy rail, it is logical

that an east-west metro link between Western Sydney Airport and the Parramatta CBD be given strong funding and timing priority in the Government's ongoing infrastructure program.

Recommendations

Council requests that any formal Inquiry findings refer to the Council's position on the Project and recommends that the NSW Government:

- a) Commit to and fund the delivery of the Sydney Metro West project as a central plank to facilitating increased housing supply in metropolitan Sydney.
- b) Include in any revised business case a new station at Camellia and Newington and at a minimum, future-proof their provision.
- c) Create a single authority/department to manage all aspects of planning and delivery of the Metro network from corridor identification and protection, land use planning, land acquisition, design and construction, property development along the corridor and place making.

Council has a strong interest in the Sydney Metro West project and would be pleased to further contribute to the Inquiry. My office can be contacted on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Gail Connolly PSM
Chief Executive Officer