



19 December 2008

**Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4**

**FINAL REPORT:
INQUIRY INTO TRANSPORT NEEDS OF
SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR**

The Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No 4, the Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC, today released the report of the Inquiry into the transport needs of Sydney's North-West sector.

“The report confirms what has already been well acknowledged and documented – that for the past decade the North West sector has suffered significantly from a lack of public transport infrastructure. Over the last ten years the residents of the North West sector have had to suffer through a cycle of new and then broken promises on the delivery of major transport infrastructure, most notably rail.”

“Even during the short life of this Inquiry, the residents of the North West had to endure yet another major back-down by the NSW Government on promised transport infrastructure – the indefinite deferral of the North West Metro, the deferral of the Schofields to Vineyard rail duplication, and the cancellation of the Carlingford Line passing loop.”

Ms Gardiner said that the Committee shared the frustration of the citizens of the North West. “We heard from many citizens who related their anger at being mired in ever-increasingly congested traffic, with no viable public transport alternative to which they can turn. We heard of the negative effects on their business, family and social lives, and of those who had made life choices and investment decisions based on the belief that promised transport infrastructure would be built.”

“The NSW Government has promised additional buses to the North West in lieu of a permanent remedy to its transport woes. The report makes a number of recommendations aimed at maximising the benefit that can be derived from what the Government says it can afford for the North West.”

“Notwithstanding the fact that the Government has emphatically stated that it is incapable of funding such a project, the Committee, based on the evidence it received, was compelled to recommend that the Government commit to funding a new rail link in the North West. The report recommends that the Government seek funding from Infrastructure Australia, and, if that fails, the Government must re-think its funding plans.”

Ms Gardiner said that it became clear during the Inquiry that the strategic transport planning for the North West sector and, indeed, the whole Sydney region needs overhauling. “Future infrastructure for bus, rail and road needs to be planned in an integrated manner. The report recommends that an Integrated Transport Planning Authority be established to coordinate and fund all transport infrastructure.”

The report, which includes 9 recommendations, is available on the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc4.

*For further comment please contact the Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC,
Committee Chair, on 9230 2903 or 0428 475 502*