



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – TRANSPORT AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Report recommends Sydenham-Bankstown line conversion not proceed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 April 2020

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and Customer Service has tabled its report into the planned conversion of the Sydenham-Bankstown line from heavy rail to metro. Notwithstanding the views of government members on the inquiry, the committee recommended that the Metro Southwest aspect of the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project not proceed.

The Chair, Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, said: 'During the course of the inquiry, serious questions were raised as to the adequacy and transparency of the business case supporting the project. Only a summary of the business case was ever published, which contributed to a lack of transparency and confidence in the project'.

Ms Boyd added: 'Overall, the committee does not believe that the project has won community support. Nor does it believe that the NSW Government has clearly made the case and rationale for Sydney Metro Southwest, including conversion of the Sydenham to Bankstown line'.

The committee made recommendations to address other key concerns related to the project, such as:

- that future projects with private partners outline more explicitly the benefits that the government foresees from the privatisation, and
- that community consultation processes are reviewed, in order to develop and implement a mandatory consultation strategy which is focused on genuine and meaningful community consultation.

In the event that the project does proceed, the committee suggested that the NSW Government further consider certain aspects of the project to ensure optimal outcomes are achieved for communities along the corridor. This was in relation to services for affected stations west of Bankstown, the design of the Bankstown interchange, project resourcing for local councils, and conservation of heritage and biodiversity along the corridor.

Ms Boyd stated: 'While I note the dissenting statement made by government members, and am disappointed in their position on this issue, I am of the view that it is imperative that governments get critical state infrastructure projects right, act in the public interest and engage in genuine and meaningful consultation with communities.'

To access the committee's report, please visit the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, on 9230 3676