

The Hon Jenny Gardiner
Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Miss Gardiner

I refer to the following extracts from the recent Transport Estimates Committee Hearings;

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Minister, can you please provide a breakdown of the costs associated with the \$2.6 billion Parramatta to Epping rail link?

The Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON: I might ask Mr Wielinga to go through the details of the breakdown.

Mr WIELINGA: The Parramatta to Epping rail link has a concept estimate of \$2.6 billion. It is essentially for the civil work and construction of the communication system and signalling system of the railway. It does not include stabling, it does not include rolling stock, **it does not include property acquisition**. It is for the civil infrastructure, the design and construction."

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: When the Federal Government announced its support for the Parramatta to Epping project at a cost of \$2.1 billion, did it review the State Government's project costings or did it simply accept them?

The Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON: You would have to ask the Commonwealth Government what it did or did not do. As I said, we have been having a dialogue. I cannot answer for what the Commonwealth did or did not do.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Do you have an estimate for land acquisition costs?

Mr WIELINGA: We will have to take that question on notice. **As I said earlier, they are not included in the \$2.6 billion**. We need to continue the review work and the land acquisition costs will have to be reconsidered again as part of that process.

This is incorrect. Funding for property acquisition has been included in the \$2.6 billion estimate.

I apologise for this mistake and hope this has not caused any inconvenience for the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely



Les Wielinga
Director General

14.10.10