

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## ROZELLE INTERCHANGE INQUIRY REPORT HANDED DOWN

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 15 July 2024

Today, Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts has handed down its report into the Impact of the Rozelle Interchange. The committee examined the planning and design, construction and opening, and impact of the Rozelle Interchange.

'The committee found that the Rozelle Interchange was not built in the interests of the community. It was built to maximise the sale value of WestConnex, which meant that decisions were not made in the community's interest. We therefore recommend that the NSW Government reject any further privatisation of the State's roads as well as any new major road-based infrastructure projects that are not in the public interest,' said Cate Faehrmann MLC, Chair of the committee.

'The committee found that there was a lack of transparency and accountability surrounding key design decisions for the Rozelle Interchange which was unacceptable given the scale of the project and its impact on the community.

'Many witnesses expressed frustration that public transport options were not genuinely considered as alternatives to Rozelle Interchange and the broader WestConnex project. Therefore we recommended that the Government ensure all public transport solutions are exhausted through a comprehensive options analysis before committing to major new road projects.

'It's clear from the overwhelming evidence of inquiry participants, that there was a lack of meaningful engagement and consultation with impacted communities during all stages of the Rozelle Interchange. The committee has recommended a review of consultation practices and policies for projects of this type to ensure meaningful and genuine consultation moving forward.

'The evidence from cycling advocates was particularly damning, with the community promised improvements to cycling and pedestrian infrastructure that weren't delivered. The committee has recommended that any gaps and concerns raised by active transport advocates are addressed, including delivering safe separated cycleways for Lilyfield and Victoria Roads.

'I wish to thank all participants of this inquiry, particularly those individuals from impacted communities who gave us crucial insights into their experience of the Rozelle Interchange. We hope this report and the committee's recommendations go some way to addressing your concerns.

'We also urge the government to investigate, as an immediate priority, additional public transport options, including bus and ferry services, to assist impacted communities and improve traffic congestion resulting from the Rozelle Interchange,' said Ms Faehrmann.

The report contains eight findings and 17 recommendations to the NSW Government. The government response is due 15 October 2024.

The committee's report and other documents can be found on the inquiry webpage.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Laura Koefoed on 0404 628 482 for Committee Chair, Cate Faehrmann MLC.