



10 August 2011

Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

IS NSW PAYING TOO MUCH FOR RAIL PROJECTS?

Committee to investigate the validity of current costing methods

The costing of rail infrastructure projects in New South Wales will come under the microscope, following reports of estimated costings for rail projects being higher than for similar projects elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

“A thorough investigation is needed into the cost methodologies used by the Transport Construction Authority, NSW Treasury and other government agencies in regard to rail and road projects,” said the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Chair of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3, who will lead the inquiry.

“We need to determine whether we are paying more than we should in New South Wales. The Inquiry will look closely at the cost estimate methodologies, ‘concept estimates’ and tendering processes and compare them to the methodologies used in other jurisdictions, to see if costs are indeed over-inflated”, Mrs Maclaren-Jones said.

“Taxpayers are entitled to know exactly how the costs of building significant rail infrastructure in New South Wales are calculated and the Committee welcomes all interested stakeholders and individuals to make a submission.” Mrs Maclaren-Jones said.

The Committee is currently calling for written submissions, with a closing date of 21 September 2011. Public hearings will be scheduled in November and December.

Submissions can be provided to:

- Email – gpscno3@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Website – www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3
- Mail – The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Further information can be found at the Committee’s website. The Inquiry terms of reference are attached.

For comment please contact Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Committee Chair on

9230 2836 or 0404 099 348