



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

## MEDIA RELEASE

# COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS REDUCTIONS TO THE STATION ACCESS FEE AT SYDNEY AIRPORT TRAIN STATIONS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 February 2014

An Upper House committee has today tabled its Report into removing or reducing the station access fee for train tickets at Sydney Airport.

The station access fee is charged when entering or exiting the ticket barriers at either Domestic or International Airport stations and currently costs \$12.60 for an adult single trip, in addition to the Sydney Trains ticket fare. The Government has been receiving approximately 50 per cent of the revenue generated from the fee since 31 January 2013 and this will rise to approximately 85 per cent by late 2014.

The Committee made a number of recommendations to the Government, including that the fee should be removed or further discounted for employees, volunteers and contractors at Sydney Airport, groups of travellers and families. The Committee Chair, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones said, “The Committee heard evidence that the cost of the station access fee is particularly affecting employees in the Sydney Airport precinct, making it difficult for them to afford travelling to work by train. The fee forces many employees to drive to work, which contributes to road congestion in the area. Reducing the access fee will provide a significant incentive for workers and travellers alike to get off the roads and onto public transport”.

“As passenger numbers are projected to grow at Sydney Airport from the current 38 million in 2013 to 74 million in 2033, affordable transport options for commuters will provide a viable alternative to road transport and help with traffic flows and reduce congestion in this important Sydney precinct”, Mrs Maclaren-Jones said.

The Committee also recommends that a transport fund be established into which Government money from the station access fee can be hypothecated and reinvested back into the transport system. Further recommendations were made to improve patronage on the Airport Line, including using new rolling stock, introducing free wi-fi, providing escalators at Central Station and increased marketing and awareness at City Circle stations.

In gathering evidence, the Committee received 32 submissions, held two public hearings and travelled to Domestic Airport on the train to speak to workers and travellers. For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, submissions and hearing transcripts please visit the Committee’s website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3).

*For further information please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, on (02) 9230 2836 or 0404 099 348*