

Submission
No 171

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

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There is a need for an increase in public transport in the North West sector of Sydney. In future planning this should take precedence over, but at the same time should complement and integrate with private transport.

A rail link from Epping Station to Rouse Hill should be a priority and is essential for the growth of the area. On completion of this link, work should commence on a further link to the Windsor/Richmond line. The proposed North West metro was ill advised with, with a suggested travel time to the outer reaches which was optimistic and unrealistic and it did not have the capacity of a heavy rail line. It would also service areas close to the city that already have far superior transport coverage compared to the North West. A heavy rail link from Epping to Rouse Hill is a cost effective answer, which would provide the capacity to cater for the growing population in the sector. It would also complement the Epping to Chatswood line.

At the same time there is a case to continue the growth of bus services, this is irrespective of the decision as to whether to build a rail link. Buses will be important to the supply of adequate public transport in the area.

In regard to roads, there should be State government funded projects. These should include extension of Bus T-ways, the widening of Showground Road, Castle Hill and the provision of a west facing ramp on the M2 at Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills. Improved parking and access to public transport by private vehicles should be a priority.

Finally there is a large disparity in the cost of using Tollways in the North West sector compared to other areas of Sydney. The area should be provided with subsidies that match other areas.