

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 149a

## **THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR**

**Organisation:** NSW Government – Ministry of Transport

**Date received:** 21/10/2008

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

**Legislative Council General Purpose Standing  
Committee No.4 Inquiry into the transport needs of the  
North – West Sector**

**Supplementary NSW Government Submission**  
6 November 2008

## **Context**

The Legislative Council is conducting an inquiry into transport in the North West sector of Sydney. The NSW Government provided a submission to the Inquiry in late October, prior to key decisions undertaken on changes to transport investment that have arisen from the NSW Mini-budget.

This submission provides a supplement to the original submission to address these changes.

## **Deferral of Transport Infrastructure Investment in the North West Sector**

Since the original submission to the Inquiry, the NSW Government has made a decision to defer the following projects in the NW sector:

- North West Metro
- Schofields to Vineyard Rail duplication
- Station upgrades at Vineyard and Riverstone
- Carlingford Line Passing Loop

## **Northwest Bus Service Upgrade**

To address immediate transport needs in the North West Sector, the NSW Government has committed to the provision of further bus service enhancements. This includes the purchase of 300 additional buses across Sydney, with 100 of these to be rolled out to the North West sector.

The additional buses will begin to be on the road by 2009. They will be environmentally friendly air conditioned vehicles. Because they are equipped with the latest technology, such as low floor access, parents with prams and people in wheelchairs will be able to get around the city more easily.

## **Land use planning for North West Sector**

The Department of Planning is preparing a Subregional Strategy for the North West as part of the Metropolitan Strategy process. The draft subregional strategy was released on 21 December 2007. A final subregional strategy is due for release in 2009.

The Department of Planning has assumed enhanced public transport capacity due to a North West Metro (previously North West Rail Link) in their population and employment forecasts for the North West. This includes the assumption that the key centres of Castle Hill, Norwest and Rouse Hill would be serviced by rail access by 2015 (or 2017 for Rouse Hill).

Structure plans for the North West Growth Centre to be implemented by the Department of Planning also assumed a density of residential development based on a North West Metro being delivered to Rouse Hill by 2017.

These assumptions and forecasts will need to be revisited in light of the deferral of the North West Metro and, to a lesser extent, the reduced duplication of the Richmond Line (from Quakers Hill to Schofields instead of Vineyard as originally planned).

#### **Overall Enhancement to North West Sector Transport Infrastructure**

A number of transport projects will be delivered that will benefit residents and workers in the North West including:

- Duplication of Richmond Line: Quakers Hill to Schofields
- Epping to Chatwood Line opening in early 2009 (limited benefit)
- Victoria Road upgrade including Iron Cove Bridge expansion, bus priority and tidal flow
- Various road network upgrades as part of "pinch point" strategy
- Expansion of bus priority across Strategic Bus corridors
- Expansion of commuter car parks at Wentworthville, Blacktown and Seven Hills
- New station at Schofields and Easy Access at Seven Hills.
- 20 new buses for the M2 corridor operating from February 2009, on top of the 100 new buses announced in October 2008.

The Government will also continue its program of land acquisition for future transport corridors. This will enable the Government to retain flexibility for any future transport option.