

Submission
No 65

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

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Inquiry needs to consider short, medium and long term solutions outlined in my submission to provide a viable use friendly public transport infrastructure to the north west integrated with a metropolitan public transport network.

North-West Sydney Transport Inquiry

The major issue for this Inquiry is, in my view, for the State Government to develop, with community support, an integrated public transport infrastructure for the North West of Sydney.

This should consider such things as the following in *the short term* for the currently inadequate train service at Carlingford:

1. Reintroducing direct train services to and from the city
2. Increasing frequency of trains during peak and off peak times with consideration of increasing carriages from 4 to 6 car trains (this would require lengthening station platforms)
3. Improving general condition of trains on Carlingford Line, (e.g. air conditioning, improved cleaning etc.) – this could be facilitated by 1. and 2. above
4. Reintroducing direct to city bus service from Carlingford
5. Increasing parking around M2 Bus Station at Oaks Road and Carlingford, Epping and Eastwood Railway Stations
6. Improving overcrowding when boarding the train at Clyde
7. Improving safety concerns at Clyde Railway Station outside of peak times due to lack of staff etc.
8. Improving inadequate facilities for the disabled at Clyde Railway Station (i.e. requires a more time effective solution to current stairlifts (e.g. lifts).

To put the emphasis back on the provision of an effective public transport in the North West *in the medium to long term* your inquiry should consider key issues such as:

1. **Completing the much deferred but needed Parramatta-Epping rail** to link the greater western Sydney with Macquarie Park, Chatswood, North Sydney and the City.
2. **Construction of the North Western rail from Epping to Castle Hill/North West Business Park** – linking Castle Hill to the rest of the metropolitan rail network.
3. **Construction of light rail from Parramatta to Baulkham Hills.**
4. **Provision of sufficient parking facilities to provide park/ride services** to the public to draw them back to public transport. This is being done in other states so why not here?
5. **Better integrating bus/rail services throughout the Northwest** to get people out of their cars and on to public transport. This is being done in other states so why not here?
6. **Upgrading road infrastructure throughout the Hills** – including widening of the M2 and Showground Road at Castle Hill as *top* priority

More than anything your inquiry needs a can do attitude with a vision to improve public transport for all of Sydney, especially with the Federal Government potentially providing funds for such infrastructure. The timing of this inquiry is a great opportunity to provide our the community the ability to travel across and around the “metropolitan area” by public transport (rail/bus/ferry) with the real potential of leaving the car at home or parking at rail/bus/ferry stations/wharves.

With this in mind perhaps Parramatta, given its central location, should be seen as the hub with public transport being developed to cross the “metropolitan area” similar to a spider’s web using bus and rail transport.

Yours sincerely