

**Submission
No 61**

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

Name: Mr Keith Bensley

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The debate over a Metro system or heavy rail is not the issue. It is plainly obvious that it will never be cost effective to drive a tunnel from either the city or from Epping all the way Kellyville. There is not sufficient population to generate sufficient income to make any predominantly underground railway viable. The obvious solution is to use the airspace over the M2 and run a high frequency light rail from Epping to Old Windsor Rd continuing on the surface using the present reservation via Rouse Hill and connect to the Windsor line. The same rolling stock could be used to link Blacktown and Windsor. The cost of duplicating this track for light rail would be much less than required for heavy rail. This concept is not new and has been done successfully in other countries. It may require compensation to the M2 operators but would be hard to justify because that motorway is already over capacity and cannot generate any more income. Heavy rail is only appropriate for freight and any proposal to perpetuate it to move passengers is a waste of resources.