

**INQUIRY INTO SYDENHAM-BANKSTOWN LINE
CONVERSION**

Organisation: Name suppressed

Date Received: 4 October 2019

Partially
Confidential

Inquiry into the Sydenham-Bankstown Line conversion

The development of high-density housing within Canterbury Bankstown and the sheer population size of the local government area warrants state-of-the-art infrastructure investment that reduces the reliance on private transportation, easily moves people in out and about the city, and improves liveability.

Terms of Reference

(a) the adequacy of the business case and viability of Metro:

- The Metro will support the health and education precinct planned for Bankstown CBD.
- The relocation of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, and the campuses of Western Sydney University and TAFE NSW into Bankstown CBD will bring tens of thousands of people (staff, students, visitors) to these sites every day.
- The Travelodge Hotel, considered to be a corporate hotel, located in Bankstown CBD, south of the railway station currently enjoys 90% occupancy of its 162 rooms on weekdays throughout the year. This occupancy rate is largely met by regular business bookings. Due to ongoing increasing demand, the hotel will open another 52 rooms in November and expects immediate occupancy rate to start at 70% for these additional rooms.
- The new A-grade Flinders Centre commercial tower, with 5 Star Green Star and 5 Star NABERS energy rating has already attracted the likes of ANZ and St George Banking, Regus, and is currently being considered by federal and state government departments looking to exit traditional CBD centers to be closer to their workforce.
- The Metro will attract further business investment in Bankstown. This will greatly assist Bankstown in becoming a legitimate employment precinct to a broader cross-section of workers and industries. The development of the suburban city as an employment precinct will reduce congestion into other business districts by providing opportunities for people to live work and play in Australia's most populated local government area.

(b) the consideration of alternatives for improving capacity and reducing congestion:

- Moving in and about Bankstown City is neither pedestrian nor cycle friendly.
- The local population is heavily reliant on private vehicle transport creating high levels of congestion in and around pinch points in the city.
- High density housing is located within walking proximity to the Metro line stations in Canterbury Bankstown City.

- The Metro will provide capacity now and into the future to meet the growth of the Canterbury Bankstown population and move people in and out of this significant south-west arterial of the Central City.
- Rapid transport will:
 - Move people quickly and within Canterbury Bankstown City, reducing the reliance on private vehicles and increasing pedestrian and cycle activity about the stations.
 - Ease congestion on high demand roads in and around the city required for public transport busses and business vehicles.
 - The automated nature of the Metro will allow supply increases to be met into the future with minimal investment or construction related disruption.
 - The efficiency of the Metro is likely to increase the number of people walking to Metro stations to travel longer distances – which both increases individual physical activity levels and reduces vehicle congestion into other areas of Sydney.

(I) any related matter:

- The Metro will significantly improve access and increase opportunities for vulnerable and low-income populations, health and education workers and students.
- New and emerging communities settling into Canterbury Bankstown will be afforded better commuter opportunities allowing them to be better connected to the broader community and Sydney.

The Metro will deliver a highly attractive, reliable, accessible and speedy transport solution to high density areas ensuring the growing population has a liveable city free from road congestion and poor connectivity.

The investment in infrastructure now, will help deliver a health and education economy in Bankstown which will benefit a densely populated local government area and provide improved employment opportunities into the future particularly for health and education workers.