



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development



Transport
for NSW



Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study

Discussion Paper



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1 Foreword

As a region of two million people, Western Sydney has nine per cent of Australia's population and is the country's third largest economy. Over the next 20 years, Western Sydney will continue to grow as it becomes home to about one million more people, thousands more jobs and a range of new attractions.

Recognising this, the Australian and NSW governments are making significant investments in transport infrastructure to unlock Western Sydney's enormous potential and to make the region an even better place to live, work and visit. This includes the proposed Western Sydney Airport, which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Western Sydney. The proposed airport will create new jobs across a range of industries and offer the people of Western Sydney better access to aviation services.

Good transport links will be needed for the proposed airport to meet its full potential. To this end the Australian and the NSW governments have started construction of the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, which will provide new and upgraded roads for the proposed airport and the residents of Western Sydney.

Rail will also play a vital role in supporting both the growth of Western Sydney and the proposed airport. This is why the Australian and the NSW governments are working together to undertake the Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study (the Scoping Study) to examine the passenger rail transport needs of the Western Sydney region and the proposed airport.

This discussion paper describes the challenges and opportunities for expanding rail services in Western Sydney and creating a new rail connection to the proposed airport. We want to hear your views on the rail service options presented in this paper

and whether there are other options that need to be considered.

Although no detailed cost estimates have been prepared, it is anticipated that the most expensive single option presented in this paper could cost up to about \$25 billion if delivered today. Cost is dependent on the length of the route selected and the difficulty of construction. Cost is one of the criteria that will be used to assess the options identified through the consultation process.

Given the competing priorities for finite government funding, no government could fund all of the rail options presented in this paper. The Scoping Study will identify which options are the priorities for rail services in Western Sydney. Could one be funded, or more? Could that be done in a few years, or is it still many years away? The answers to these questions will depend in part on whether there are innovative approaches to funding and financing which could be used to deliver new rail services. This is why we are also asking for your views about different ways the rail options could be funded and financed.

Early engagement with the private sector is also important, so that prioritisation of options funding and financing models consider best practice and include all opportunities that might arise. A separate industry engagement briefing paper has been developed to start that conversation.

Your valuable input is vital for helping the Australian and NSW governments plan for the future. All submissions on the discussion paper will help inform the Scoping Study's findings. The study's findings will be outlined in the final report that will be provided to both governments for their consideration.

The City Deal for Western Sydney

The Commonwealth, New South Wales State Government and local governments are partnering in a plan for jobs, housing and improved transport in Western Sydney.

The Western Sydney Airport and the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan have extraordinary transformative potential for the region that will only be realised through better collaboration. The Western Sydney City Deal will capitalise on these major investments, linking planning, reform and infrastructure across all

three levels of government to drive economic growth and improve liveability.

A rail link to the Western Sydney Airport will connect businesses to the world and each other, people to jobs, strengthen regional economic centres and activate new housing and employment lands. In assessing rail options outlined in this paper, governments will consider the extent that options maximise land use and transport opportunities, and drive the broader objectives of the Western Sydney City Deal.