



Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 30 July 2012

NORTH WEST RAIL LINK REACHES ANOTHER PLANNING MILESTONE

The North West Rail Link has reached another planning milestone following strong community feedback on the O'Farrell Government's priority transport infrastructure project, NSW Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian said today.

"This is the biggest transport infrastructure project in Sydney since the Harbour Bridge was built almost 90 years ago, so it's important people have their say," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The Submissions Report being lodged today addresses issues raised by the community, local businesses, government agencies and councils to the first Environmental Impact Statement. We've listened and taken on board their feedback."

Also lodged today with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is a State Significant Infrastructure Application, signalling the start of the planning process for the second Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The second EIS will go on public exhibition later this year and will cover the operation and construction of railway stations, station precincts, the stabling facility at Tallawong Rd and operational rail infrastructure and signalling systems.

More than 350 submissions were made to the first EIS, which covered major construction works like tunnelling, building the 4km Skytrain and railway station excavation.

Following community feedback, some key refinements to the project include:

Norwest: The location of the underground Norwest railway station will be moved slightly to the south east, significantly reducing the disruptions to Norwest Boulevard during construction;

Cheltenham: The size of the construction site will be reduced by 2,250m², cutting the amount of bushland that needs to be cleared. A previously proposed access road to the site from Castle Howard Rd will no longer be required, with access for light vehicles to the site to be from existing roads used to get to Cheltenham Oval;

Hills Centre: Community groups using the buildings within the Hills Centre construction site area will be accommodated either in existing or new buildings. If they cannot be accommodated on the site, the project team will help them find alternative accommodation;

Epping: The two construction sites previously proposed at Epping will now be consolidated into one dedicated location at the Epping Office Park site.

More than 500 people attended eight community information sessions during the exhibition period for the first EIS, and over 40,000 locals received invitations to make a submission.

Both submissions are available on the North West Rail Link website at www.northwestrail.com.au and will also be available on www.planning.nsw.gov.au.