

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

Have your say on North West Rail Link plans

The public is being invited to comment on the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the North West Rail Link project.

From today, the community has the chance to have their say on tunnelling, underground railway station excavation, and construction of the Skytrain above-ground viaduct section between Bella Vista and Rouse Hill railway stations.

The EIS includes proposed changes to the 2008 approved concept plan for the North West Rail Link, including a realignment of part of the route and the addition of two more stations at Bella Vista and Cudgegong Road.

The EIS, which includes the concept plan amendment and Stage 1 project application for major civil construction works, is being exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure for just over six weeks from **Wednesday 4 April 2012 until Monday 21 May 2012**. Interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

The proponent, Transport for NSW, is seeking to modify the concept plan for the North West Rail Link to:

- Provide additional stations at Bella Vista and Cudgegong Road, in north-western Sydney;
- Make minor changes to the location of the Hills Centre Station;
- Relocate Kellyville Station;
- Change the route alignment through the Area 20 precinct; and
- Extend a proposed viaduct to 4km in length between Bella Vista and Rouse Hill.

Transport for NSW is also seeking project approval to commence major civil construction works including the establishment of work sites, bulk earthworks, tunnelling, construction of cuttings, embankments and viaducts, and service facilities.

The department required the proponent to address a range of issues in its EIS including interaction with future land use plans, biodiversity, European and indigenous heritage, visual impacts, air quality, noise and vibration impacts, and impacts on soil and water.

Submissions received during the exhibition period will be made available on the department's website and will be carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of the project. After the department has completed its assessment report, the proposal will be referred to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure for determination.

The EIS documentation can be viewed during business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Transport for NSW** – Information Centre, 299 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill;
- **Nature Conservation Council** – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;

- **Hornsby Shire Council** and branch libraries at Pennant Hills, Epping and Hornsby;
- **Hills Shire Council** and branch libraries at Castle Hill, Vinegar Hill and Baulkham Hills; and
- **Blacktown City Council** and libraries at Blacktown and Stanhope Gardens.

All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department's website, and can be accessed by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

Submissions can be:

- Lodged online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6355; or
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Media contact: Laurel-Lee Roderick, 9228 6128 or 0429 153 139

NOTE: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.