Media release

Thursday, 29 August 2013

Feedback sought on changes to support delivery of Sydney light rail project

The NSW Government today sought feedback on proposed planning changes to support the delivery of Sydney’s $1.6 billion CBD and South East Light Rail project.

NSW Department of Planning Director General Sam Haddad said the changes to the Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy will allow the proponent, Transport for NSW to begin early investigative works on the light rail project.

Mr Haddad said the early works will include geotechnical and contamination investigations and surveys along the proposed light rail route between Circular Quay and Kingsford and Randwick.

“The CBD and South East Light Rail project will transform Sydney by unlocking road capacity in the city and improving public transport links between the CBD and the south eastern suburbs,” Mr Haddad said.

“The works allowed under the proposed planning amendments will allow critical preparations for the light rail project to begin as soon as possible, ensuring that a detailed assessment of the proposed route can occur.”

Under the changes, Transport for NSW will assess all relevant environmental issues and determine the impacts of its early investigative works for the project, under Part 5 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Mr Haddad said the proposed changes will also enable the undertaking of preliminary investigative works for other future light rail projects in NSW, such as in Newcastle.

After launching the project last December, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) lodged its State Significant Infrastructure application for the light rail project in June 2013.

Mr Haddad said the planning changes, detailed in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Light Rail) 2013 (SEPP Amendment), will be on exhibition until Thursday, 12 September 2013.

Mr Haddad said community consultation will continue to play an integral role during the assessment phase of the project.

Following the submission of the proponent’s environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department of Planning and Infrastructure will publicly exhibit the document and call for public and stakeholder submissions.

For further information, go to: http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition

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