

Media Release

3 October 2012

Road, rail and bus improvements to benefit Western Sydney

A new motorway to relieve congestion on the M4 and Parramatta Rd, a program to reduce traffic bottlenecks around Parramatta City plus faster rail and bus services for commuters are among key recommendations for Western Sydney in the State Infrastructure Strategy released today.

The 20 year Strategy released today has been prepared by Infrastructure NSW to help guide future infrastructure investment by the NSW Government. It includes more than \$12 billion worth of recommendations, mostly priority transport projects, which will benefit Western Sydney over the next 10 years.

These projects are in addition to existing NSW Government programs already planned and commenced including new or expanded hospitals and schools in growth areas in Western Sydney, the North West Rail Link and the South West Rail Link.

Infrastructure NSW Chief Executive Paul Broad said Greater Sydney, including the Western Suburbs, was where most people lived and worked.

"More than three million people live in Greater Sydney and this is expected to grow to more than 4.4 million people over the next 20 years – the fastest growth of any region of NSW," Mr Broad said.

"Greater Sydney is home to a diverse range of industries and business parks that are essential to the State's economic success, driving about one-third of the economy."

Mr Broad said cars would remain the dominant mode of transport within Greater Sydney because of dispersed housing and employment patterns.

"Most residents work within the region and rely on their cars to get to work and employment will continue to be spread across the region over the next 20 years," he said.

Key projects recommended as priorities for Government consideration include:

- **WestConnex motorways scheme**, which will be completed in 10 years, and will reduce congestion and improve travel times for:
 - Residents throughout Western Sydney, for example in Penrith, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Bankstown and Parramatta who primarily use road transport to travel to work across Sydney or visit family and friends;
 - Freight logistics operations by moving freight from key locations like Port Botany to outer Western Sydney logistics centres.
- Parramatta Pinchpoints program (0-5 years) which is aimed at reducing congestion around Parramatta City (including the M4).



• **F3–M2 link** which will reduce travel time for passengers and freight journeys for businesses and residents of Western Sydney travelling north to the Central Coast and further.

Public Transport

- Turn-up-and-go express train service between Sydney CBD and Parramatta (0-5 years) fast frequent services for commuters and connecting to other public transport services to other areas of Western Sydney.
- Bus priority measures for Parramatta (5-10 years) services to surrounding areas to improve transit times for commuters.
- Increased frequency and faster train services for Western Sydney commuters with utilisation of spare capacity on the City Circle line (5-10 years)

Beyond 10 years, the Strategy recommends increasing commuter capacity on the Western Line through a \$5 billion rapid transit program (10-20 years), and building a Parramatta to Macquarie Park T-Way to reduce travelling times between key employment areas (10-20 years).

Over the next five years, future transport corridors will also be preserved for the Outer Western Sydney Orbital Motorway, and the Western Sydney Freight Line and Eastern Creek Intermodal Terminal.

Protecting people and businesses in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley from flooding is also a key recommendation in the Strategy. This affects tens of thousands of residents and thousands of business in a number of Local Council areas including Penrith, Hawkesbury and Blacktown.

The State Infrastructure Strategy 2012-2032 is Infrastructure NSW's independent advice to the NSW Government on the priority infrastructure investments and reforms required to drive productivity and economic growth.

The Strategy's recommendations have been provided to the Government for its consideration in developing plans for infrastructure investment. For further information, the Strategy can be found on www.insw.com

Media contact:

Sandy Olsen 0411 495 812 sandy.olsen@insw.com