

## 4.1 Update on the South West Rail Link Extension

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### Attachments

Nil

In April 2014, Transport for NSW undertook comprehensive community consultation over the proposed extension of the South West Rail Link Corridor from Leppington to Bringelly and then to Badgerys Creek Airport and further northwards, and south from Bringelly to Narellan.

Council made submissions to Transport for NSW advocating for consideration of the proposed corridor to proceed beyond Narellan connecting with the Great Southern Rail Line at Campbelltown/Macarthur.

Since the time the previous consultation over the proposed South West rail corridor extension took place, the new metropolitan strategy "A Plan for Growing Sydney" has been released by the NSW Government.

Importantly, the strategy declared Campbelltown/Macarthur as Sydney's newest regional city centre and also recognised the importance of the substantial potential that the Macarthur South Area has for future urban development.

Transport for NSW has now released an update on the South West Rail Link Extension project that focuses particularly on the Southern Section, from Leppington to Bringelly and south to Narellan, and presents an overview of the preservation of the corridor. A community newsletter has also been released.

Transport for NSW now intends to consult the community further on the southern section of the South West Rail Link extension including:

- The recommended corridor from Leppington to Bringelly to Narellan and
- The study area from Narellan to the T2 South Line.

Submissions will be received on these matters up until 20 July 2015.

It is of significance that the documentation available from Transport for NSW includes the following commentary with respect to the possible extension of the South West Rail link beyond Narellan:

- Transport for NSW are proposing to investigate a further extension of the rail corridor from Narellan to connect with the T2 South Line
- There are opportunities for the corridor to run west of Mt Annan through Spring Farm connecting to the T2 South Line near Menangle

- Extending the corridor from Narellan to the T2 South Line would:
  - serve the transport needs generated by the long term growth in the newly developing areas of West Appin and Macarthur South
  - connect Narellan with jobs and services in Campbelltown/Macarthur, the broader Western Sydney Employment Area and the Badgerys Creek Airport
  - Improve regional transport access to UWS Campbelltown campus together with health, shopping and recreational services at Macarthur
  - Help ease traffic congestion on Narellan Road
  - Improve access for customers from the Southern Highlands.

It should be noted that these attributes are generally consistent with the reasons Council promoted to Transport for NSW in seeking support for the extension of the rail link from Narellan to Campbelltown/Macarthur.

Accordingly, Council is urged to support the NSW Government in the identification of a preferred corridor between Narellan and the Great Southern Line as a matter of the highest priority. This would facilitate more sustainable planning for the Macarthur South Urban Investigation Area and precinct planning in and around the Campbelltown/Macarthur Regional City Centre, in the best economic and social interests of not only Campbelltown, but for the future of the Macarthur Region as a whole.

## **Recommendation**

That Council prepare a submission to Transport for NSW urging the NSW Government to:

- a. support the extension of the South West Rail Link beyond Narellan to connect with the T2 South Line, and work collaboratively with Council in the identification of a suitable corridor route that maximises access to the Campbelltown/Macarthur Regional City Centre to and from future urban release areas, and key economic/employment nodes such as the Badgerys Creek Airport and Broader Western Sydney Employment Area.
- b. expedite the preservation of the preferred corridor route in consultation with Council and the broader community.

## **Council Meeting 9 June 2015 (Hawker/Lound)**

That the Recommendation be adopted.

## **Council Resolution Minute Number 97**

That the Recommendation be adopted.

This item was **CARRIED** unanimously.