



NSROC PRESS RELEASE – 17 December 2010

“NEW” METRO PLAN FAILS TO INSPIRE

Disappointment and disbelief follows the release of the revised Metropolitan Strategy by the Premier yesterday.

“After 6 months and extensive feedback from the community nothing has changed.” said CI Nick Berman, Mayor of Hornsby and President of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation (NSROC).

The revised Strategy was supposed to review the Government’s 2005 Metropolitan Plan and for the first time link it to the Metropolitan Transport Plan that was released in February.

NSROC Councils, which include Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring- gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby, put an explicit business case to the government to fast-track the North West and Parramatta to Epping Rail Links and to improve public transport infrastructure for the Northern Sydney Region.

Despite widespread criticism, the revised Transport Plan still nominates 2024 for the completion of the North West Rail Link with construction not commencing til 2017. The Epping to Parramatta Link, another crucial connection ignored by the State Government, may be back on the table if the promise of funding by Federal Government at the last election is honoured.

The revised Strategy has proposed further growth in the northern Sydney area with 75,000 new dwellings expected to be incorporated into the region by 2036. Despite criticisms from all councils, the revised Strategy still refuses to explain to the public how these targets for each region have been calculated.

“The Metro Strategy fails on many levels. Firstly it has failed to adjust and respond to feedback from the community on transport. Secondly it does not explain to communities why and how their growth targets have been set. And thirdly, the strategy offers no confidence to the community that it will be delivered. We are tired of plans we want action” CI Berman said.

End : www.nsroc.org

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