

# **Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel**

## **Terms of Reference**

During the 2022 Federal Election, a commitment was made to establish an expert panel to assess Western Sydney's transport infrastructure needs and report back to the Australian Government by Q2 2023 ahead of the 2023-24 Federal Budget.

### **ROLE OF THE PANEL**

The Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel (the Panel) will:

- undertake a strategic needs assessment of transport infrastructure in Western Sydney (see definition below), considering any existing land transport strategies, blueprints and other relevant studies, and consulting with major stakeholders as appropriate.
- develop an independent view of the strategic transport priorities that will support the growth of Western Sydney as a destination for living, recreation and business; and
- provide recommendations to the Australian and NSW Governments on:
  - identified gaps in, and opportunities for, major transport infrastructure in Western Sydney, and
  - suggested approaches to resolving identified gaps in order to produce a prioritised, sequenced view of the region's transport needs.
- provide these recommendations by Q2 2023 ahead of the 2023-24 Federal Budget.
- provide interim updates to the Australian Government, as requested.

The work of the Panel is not intended to:

- replace existing state or local government transport plans,
- commit governments to funding land transport infrastructure projects, and
- identify strategic needs outside the Western Sydney area even where they may provide some benefit to Western Sydney.

The Australian Government may wish to release the findings in part or in full.

Panel members will be required to sign Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality declarations prior to commencing the role. No information received in the course of participating in the panel can be used for purposes outside the context of the panel.

With the exception of the Chair, panel members will not have authority to speak publicly on behalf of the panel.

## **WESTERN SYDNEY AREA BOUNDARY**

For the purposes of the Panel, Western Sydney encompasses the following local government areas:

- The Western Parkland City, defined by the NSW Government as comprising the eight councils of the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly;
- The Hills Shire Council; and
- Blacktown City Council

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Panel membership will include a Chair, one representative from the Australian Government, NSW Government, business sector, academia and two representatives each from local government and the Western Sydney community.

The Australian Government Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Local Government, together with the NSW Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport, will consider nominations for panel membership.

The Australian Government Minister will retain sole responsibility over the establishment and membership of the panel.

The role of a Panel member may not be delegated.

Panel members will not be remunerated for their participation on the Panel, however, out-of-pocket expenses may be reimbursed.

## **ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts will provide secretariat support, including the publication of the findings.