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The North West Needs Adequate Public Transport

Western Sydney Community Forum calls for a commitment to the early development of a rail link into the North West Sector. The rail link into the North West sector of Sydney has been promised for several elections and there has been several incarnations of this plan linking the North West sector into Castle Hill, Parramatta and the Macquarie Business Park area.

The NSW Government "vision" for the North West sector states their desire for a "greater public transport use supported by major transport infrastructure investment" (NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy, 2006).

Western Sydney is an economic engine room, producing 30% of Australia's GDP. It is expected that the North West sector will have a growth of over 80,000 new homes and employment growth of over 130,000 jobs during the next two decades. The North West sector includes the North West Growth Centre which is one of the main two land release areas in Sydney.

There will be a significant increase in the volume of people wanting to travel into the regional centres of Penrith, Blacktown, Castle Hill Parramatta and the Macquarie Park area as a result of the growth in the North West sector.

It will be urban planning neglect of grand proportions if the growing public transport needs of this area are not serviced in the near future. The implications of this neglect will likely be:

- the negative effects of increased car use into the regional centres (increased air pollution, road congestion and road crash mortality)
- the negative effects of increasing oil prices on the cost of living of the people living in the North West sector
- an increase in social exclusion due to transport disadvantage for people on low or fixed incomes and with mobility difficulties.

The Government has promoted the development into the North West sector, distant from the regional centres of North West Sydney, and the Government must ensure that the infrastructure development keeps pace with the growth in these areas.

Western Sydney Community Forum supports the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils' (WSROC) Agenda for Sustainable Development and believes that future urban development in Western Sydney should use the principles developed by the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) theorists like Professor Peter Newman

www.wsroc.com.au/downloads/Sydney_other_city_Newman_Leadership_Sustainability_Part_2.pdf .

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