



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Dear Sir / Madam,

Submission on Metro West Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission on the Sydney Metro West EIS.

The University wishes to highlight that the Camperdown-Ultimo Health and Education Precinct currently provides more than 35,000 jobs, yet public transport accessibility for the precinct is decreasing. We acknowledge that reconsideration of the Metro West station locations is unlikely given the advanced stage of planning for the project. Nevertheless, we would like to express our interest in engaging with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to consider options for incorporating a spur-line or switchback addition to the proposed alignment, to achieve optimal outcomes for employment and economic growth by capturing and servicing precinct patronage.

The Camperdown-Ultimo Health and Education Precinct is currently serviced by a single heavy rail station at Redfern. Redfern Station is a 25-minute walk to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and a 15-minute walk to the heart of the University's Camperdown Campus. Once all COVID-19 lockdown measures are lifted, Redfern Station is anticipated to return to being congested, dangerously over-capacity at peak hour, and unable to support any major increase in patronage even with the proposed partial refurbishment program.

As previously submitted to Government via the 2019 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Sydenham-Bankstown Line Conversion, public transport options for the University's students and staff will be further reduced by the Sydney Metro City and Southwest alignment which will remove direct train services to Redfern for commuters living west of Sydenham on the T3 Bankstown Line. This is yet another example of where accessibility to the precinct has not only stalled, it has diminished.

The DPIE would also be aware of the current negotiations underway between the University and the NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet for the development of a mixed-use, multidisciplinary University campus at the Cumberland Hospital site at Westmead. A metro connection between Camperdown and Westmead is critical to strategically link two of Australia's largest and growing health and education precincts: Camperdown-Ultimo and Parramatta-Westmead.

As advised in a 2018 Aurecon report commissioned by the University, a metro route that incorporates Camperdown will generate direct and indirect economic benefits, including:

- Direct, fast access from Sydney CBD to Western Sydney for two well developed health and education and innovation precincts (Westmead and Camperdown);
- Unlock capacity on the existing Sydney Trains T1 line for passengers commuting and travelling from Western Sydney to two key precincts, addressing immediate patronage needs; and
- Unlock much-needed capacity at Redfern Station – platforms, stairs, turnstiles, exits and major walking routes from the station.

We urge the NSW Government to consider the possibility of a spur-line or switchback option on the Metro West route alignment in order to unlock the potential of the Camperdown-Ultimo Health and Education Precinct which has been advocated for by the Greater Sydney Commission; City of Sydney Council; UTS; and Inner West Council to name just a few.



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Attached to this document is an example of what a switchback route alignment could look like to allow for a Metro West Camperdown station.

Regards,

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