

NOTICE OF PROJECT APPROVAL

Major Project: Sydney Metro Project Stage 1 (CBD Metro)

Reference: 09_0036
Date of approval: 1 January 2010
Proponent: Sydney Metro
Council areas: Sydney City and Leichhardt
Approval authority: Minister for Planning

On 1 January 2010, the Minister for Planning granted project approval to the Sydney Metro Authority for the construction and operation of the first stage of a metro network between Central and Rozelle. The project involves an approximately seven-kilometre railway alignment primarily in underground twin tunnels, metro stations, a stabling and maintenance facility within the former Rozelle Marshalling Yard site, and ancillary infrastructure and services.

Although planning approval was granted to the project, the NSW Government announced on the 21 February 2010 that the CBD Metro project and a broader metro rail network do not form part of the strategic transport plan for Sydney detailed in *Metropolitan Transport Plan 2010* and consequently would not be constructed. The Metropolitan Transport Plan, which presents an integrated land use and transport plan for Sydney until 2036, combined with a ten-year funding guarantee, is available on the NSW Government website (<http://www.nsw.gov.au/metropolitantransportplan>).

The project approval was granted following widespread community consultation and a comprehensive environmental impact assessment undertaken by the Department of Planning in liaison with key Government authorities, and consistent with the independent statutory requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Department's assessment concluded that the project could satisfactorily address key environmental, social and amenity impacts subject to the imposition of a range of conditions. This was on the basis that the project was justified only as an initial stage of a broader metro rail network for metropolitan Sydney. This has since been stopped by the Government.

A copy of the Minister's conditions of approval and Director-General's Assessment Report on the proposal is available on the Department's website, under "Notices of Determination" in the "Major Project Assessments" section (www.planning.nsw.gov.au).