



1 December 2022

Mr Keith Ng
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Submitted via the NSW Planning Portal website

Dear Keith,

Re: Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 – State Significant Infrastructure

Western Sydney University welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Stage 2 State Significant Infrastructure (SSI-10035) project. The University supports an expanded public transport network that will connect the Greater Parramatta to Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) corridor, including better integration of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 lines.

The University has a strong presence within GPOP, including campuses at Westmead, Parramatta CBD, Rydalmere, and Sydney Olympic Park. We have over 20,000 students and 1,800 staff across these sites, many whom will frequent the PLR service to travel between campuses for study and work. We also receive a significant number of visitors to these campuses with our Rydalmere Parramatta campus exclusively hosting graduations and Open Day.

The PLR will provide unprecedented public transport access for university students, staff, and visitors with a dedicated stop (Yallamundi) at the Parramatta South campus. Stage 2 of the PLR provides a further opportunity to enhance this network and deliver efficient connections between major health, education, sporting, and entertainment precincts.

Operation of the PLR Stage 1 in late 2023 is expected to result in a significant modal shift for students and staff visiting the Westmead and Parramatta campuses. With direct connections to existing rail and bus networks, the PLR will deliver a critical missing piece in public transport access and provide the most efficient and economical travel option between campuses, key transport nodes and activity precincts.

Unlike the direct connections provided between Westmead and Carlingford, the PLR Stage 2 will require commuters boarding or alighting at Yallamundi to interchange at Tramway Avenue for access to and from Sydney Olympic Park. Passengers using the active transport link to access this interchange will be required to walk or cycle approximately 2km. Instead, the University proposes delivery of a fully integrated interchange at Camelia or Yallamundi that can enable efficient connections between the two lines. With a high patronage expected at Yallamundi, significant redevelopment in Dundas, Telopea, and Carlingford, and existing active transport links including the Parramatta Valley Cycleway, Yallamundi and/or Rosehill Gardens present a superior option for service of the wider GPOP.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



The University welcomes the opportunity to explore this possibility with Transport for NSW and to support the delivery of a truly transformational public transport outcome.

If you would like to discuss this submission further, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Lee, Director, Estate Planning and Strategy on 0431 983 100, or at michelle.lee@westernsydney.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Parasiris
Chief Estate and Commercial Officer
Western Sydney University