

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



**Sydney Metro – Stage 2**  
**Sydenham to Bankstown**

Western Sydney University Submission to the Department of  
Planning and Environment July 2018

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Western Sydney University (the University) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment for Sydney Metro – Stage 2 Sydenham to Bankstown. The University is supportive of the Project as a key transport infrastructure project to improve social, environmental and economic outcomes and planned growth of the region.

As the largest education provider in Western Sydney, and supporter and contributor to the region's economic and social growth, the University is embarking on a large-scale transformative program that will bring the highest quality educational opportunities and world-class research expertise to the region. Our Western Growth strategy is reshaping the existing campus network by investing in new 'vertical campuses' in CBD locations. A key driver for this is to increase accessibility to our facilities for students and staff.

With new campuses established in Parramatta and Liverpool city centres, the University is now planning for a new Bankstown City campus, 300m north of the Bankstown Metro station as part of Bankstown's Civic Precinct. The University is working closely with Canterbury Bankstown Council in planning for the Bankstown City Campus and its relationship to the precinct in which it will be situated.

The Sydney Metro Sydenham to Bankstown Metro Upgrade Project will significantly improve transport accessibility for Bankstown City and for the planned campus. The University advocates for a place based approach to the design of the Bankstown station to ensure optimal design that serves to connect with Councils plans for the city centre.

This includes ensuring that the public domain surrounding the station is safe, activated, functional, and remains valuable and well-utilised long into the future.

As the Preferred Infrastructure Report does not provide further detail on Bankstown station upgrades, other than stating that *'upgrades will be consistent with the Environmental Impact Statement'*. The University supports the design matters raised by Council in their EIS Submission, and highlight the need for a design led approach to the station upgrade and the opportunity for renewal and city shaping.

As a key stakeholder, the University would like the opportunity to work collaboratively with Sydney Metro, Transport for NSW, Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

# 1. CONTEXT

## Introduction

Western Sydney University (the University) is the largest education provider in Western Sydney, a supporter and contributor to the region's economic and social growth, and a leading advocate and champion for Greater Western Sydney. We are the 'university for the region' – a region that is the third largest economy in Australia and home to almost 150,000 businesses and more than 2 million people, and growing. Over the next 20 years, Western Sydney's population is expected to grow by another million, contributing to more than half of Sydney's overall expected population growth.

Today the University has a student population of about 45,000 and 3,300 staff. 77% of our domestic students are from Western Sydney, 25% are from low SES backgrounds, and 63.4% of our commencing domestic students are first in family at University.

## Securing Success

Our vision statement is: "To secure success for our students and the Greater Western Sydney region through innovation and discovery in a dynamic and technologically-enabled world".

Our mission statement is: "To be a university of international standing and outlook, achieving excellence through scholarship, teaching, learning, research and service to local and international communities, beginning with the people of Greater Western Sydney".

Our strategic goals and objectives for 2018-2020 are:

- Student-centredness that integrates academic and professional opportunity with personal support
- Ambition as a vibrant research-led university with regional, national and global impact
- Aspiration to provide a research informed learning experience that is innovative, flexible and responsive
- Strategic intent to expand international reach and reputation
- Commitment as an anchor institution and champion for Greater Western Sydney
- Commitment to a dynamic and innovative culture that secures success.

The University is inextricably tied to the region. The University was designed to serve the population of Western Sydney and importantly, to meet and lift the aspirations of the population.

The University's geographic reach throughout Greater Western Sydney as a multi-campus institution ensures that the University is well-placed to contribute to the region's social and economic development and to create new education and research facilities that are aligned with our Western Growth strategy.

## Western Growth

The University is embarking on a large-scale transformative program that will bring the highest quality educational opportunities and world-class research expertise to the reach of Australia's fastest growing region. The University, through its Western Growth strategy, is reshaping the campus network, to combine existing campuses in Parramatta, Penrith, Campbelltown and Hawkesbury with multi-site CBD 'vertical campuses' in Parramatta, Liverpool, and Bankstown.

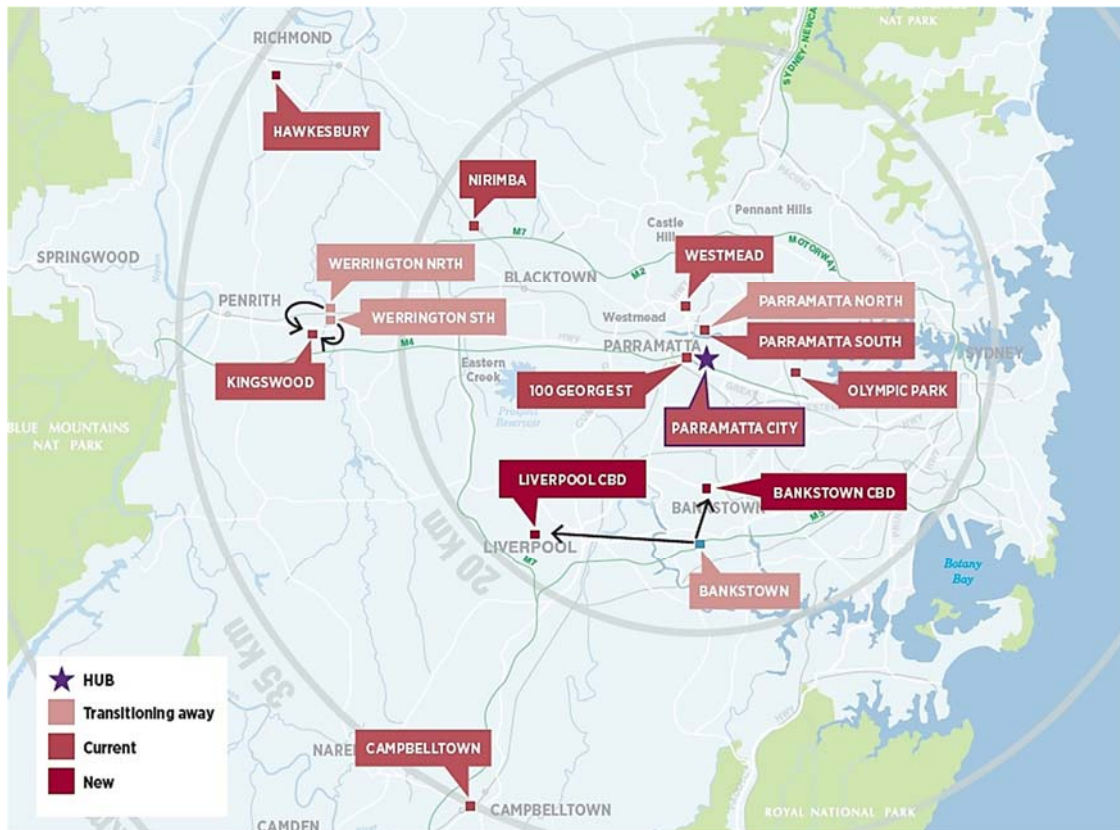


Figure 1: Transforming the University's footprint across Western Sydney

Through a precinct approach, the University will leverage its distinctive research strengths and serve as a focal point for co-creation, exchange and translation with our community and industry partners.

The University's transformation strategy complements and contributes to the objectives of all three levels of government. The University is working closely with the Greater Sydney Commission and other Government agencies to ensure alignment with planning policy, to grow 'knowledge jobs', support innovation, improve community well-being and provide greater accessibility across the region.

Western Growth supports the Greater Sydney Commission's vision for Sydney as a city of three cities and the '30-minute city', where residents can have quicker, easier access to education and jobs. Investment in new transport infrastructure is critical to building jobs in Western Sydney.

The University plays a crucial role in providing a highly-skilled, locally knowledgeable, and talented pool of graduates to support economic growth of the region, offering educational programs aligned with career preparedness and employment opportunities. We are working with industry, business

and government to ensure programs meet the needs of regional employers and are supported by work-integrated learning and placements.

## Western Sydney University's Contribution to the Region

The University is a significant economic contributor to Western Sydney. Rapid population growth, the changing structure of the economy and increased higher education participation rates create strong demand for higher education in the region. The University is the largest education provider in Western Sydney with 76 per cent of its students residing in the region.

Human capital theory of higher education suggests that university education increases the knowledge and skills of workers, which in turn improves the productivity in the workforce, labour force participation and employment. As such, a thriving university sector is synonymous with a prosperous economy.<sup>1</sup>

The University's plans for a new Bankstown City campus seeks to explicitly deliver on the unique social contract that the University holds with the people and institutions of Western Sydney.

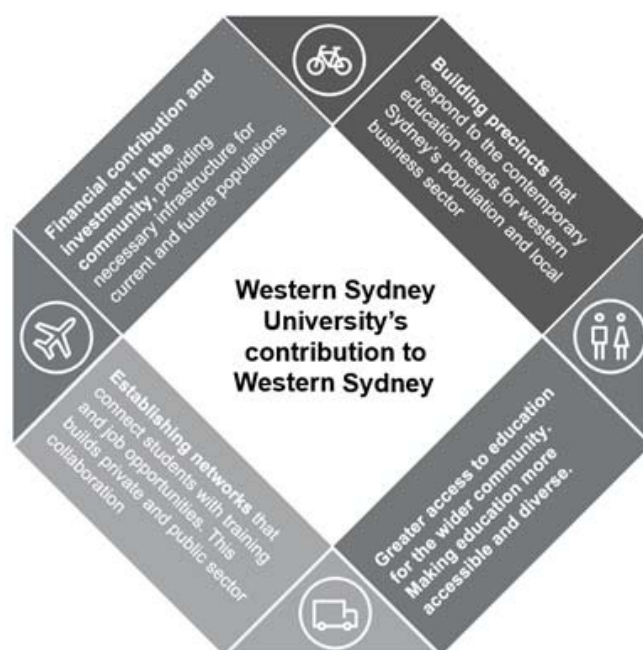


Figure 1: Contribution by the University

## Bankstown City Campus

The University's new vertical campus is anticipated for completion in 2021. The site for the new campus is located 300m to the north of the Bankstown Metro station, in the Civic Precinct adjacent

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<sup>1</sup> Mankiw, N. G., D. Romer, and David N. Weil, 1992, "A Contribution to the Empirics of Economic Growth", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 107(2), 407-437

to Council Offices, the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre, Bryan Brown Theatre and Paul Keating Park.

In planning for the new campus, the University is taking a precinct approach. The focus is to make a positive impact, bring people together and improve local lives. We anticipate the facility will accommodate approximately 6,000 students upon commencement, with opportunity to grow to 10,000 students.

The University's vision for the Bankstown City campus establishes a set of place values that correspond with Council's place vision for the city centre and place principles set by the NSW Government and will ultimately deliver high-quality educational opportunities to one of Western Sydney's emerging strategic centres.

## 2.STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The University sees the Sydney Metro as essential infrastructure for Sydney and critical to the delivery of the Greater Sydney Commission vision for a Metropolis of Three Cities, and the Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy 2056. The upgrade to the existing rail line and delivery of 31 metro stations and 66 kilometres of new metro will positively contribute to building a '30-minute city' and provide high frequency connection to Sydney CBD.

The expected increase in population in this area requires significant investment into future transport connectivity and the Sydneyham to Bankstown Metro Upgrade Project creates a significant opportunity to improve social, environmental and economic opportunity. It is acknowledged that Bankstown is emerging as a key centre and has been identified as an emerging Education and Health Precinct in the recently released Draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan 2017 and the Draft Future Transport Strategy 2056.

The University supports the many benefits associated with more frequent rail services including the increased connection to education and employment, and the delivery of productivity and liveability targets stated in the South District Plan, including:

- Growing and investing into education precincts as a catalyst for the District
- Creating conditions for stronger economic growth
- Dwellings within 30 minutes from a strategic centre
- Creating well-connected accessible and walkable cities
- Renewing great places and local centres
- Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities

It is increasingly recognised that successful education precincts are dependent on the ability for education institutions to leverage existing infrastructure and to co-exist with industry and community.

The upgrades to Bankstown station, along with planned improvements to the city centre, will significantly increase connectivity and support the growth of Bankstown as a strategic centre.

The NSW Government Architect NSW Better Placed design policy objectives highlight the importance of places being functionally efficient and fit for purpose, having consideration of a tailored response to ensure places remain valuable and well-utilised. Good urban design in Bankstown CBD will generate ongoing value for communities and minimise costs over time, as well as improve health and well-being, productivity and inclusivity, and build community cohesion and liability.

Council support the Better Placed design principles in their EIS Submission. Highlighting the need to create a value adding approach through the Bankstown station upgrade and the opportunity for renewal, city shaping, and the opportunity to readdress the lack of connectivity and permeability through the CBD. The lack of connections for pedestrians and cyclists between the north and south of the CBD is a restriction to growth. The University wishes to support Council's position to ensure



the following opportunities are explored, as stated in Council's *Report Creating Better Places: Opportunities for our Metro Centres*, to:

- improve public domain surrounding the Bankstown station;
- improve connectivity from the station through the heart of the CBD;
- improve 'through movements' by connecting Appian Way (north) through the Metro station (central) to Restwell Street (south);
- improve active transport links; and
- investigate the opportunity to directly link with Western Sydney Airport and Liverpool as identified in the recently released Draft Future Transport Strategy 2056.

## 3. Response to the Preferred Infrastructure Report

The University is supportive of many of the objectives presented in the Preferred Infrastructure Report to deliver a world-class Sydney Metro service that will:

- Reduce travel times to key employment and education precincts
- Improve access to stations
- Improve safety (CCTV)
- Improve disability standards and provide more accessible public transport
- Increase capacity through a high frequency service
- Provide a reliable metro rail service

The proposed Metro train every four minutes in peak hours (every ten minutes off peak) will improve access to higher education in the region. A strong pedestrian link between the Bankstown Metro station and the University CBD Campus will ensure high use by staff and students alike.

Improvement north and south through a pedestrian spine, will improve 'through movements' and it is considered that Canterbury-Bankstown Council's plans to connect Appian Way (north) through the Metro Station (central) to Restwell Street (south) will activate the public domain.

The University requests more detail to better understand the impacts of rail possessions and urban renewal disruptions to understand potential impacts for the delivery of the Bankstown City campus and in managing potential disruptions once our new facility is operational.

It is understood that the Preferred Infrastructure Report does not provide detail on Bankstown station, stating that *'upgrades will be consistent with the Environmental Impact Statement'*. The University seeks the opportunity to be part of this process in relation to the upgrades of Bankstown station and the surrounding public domain.

As a key stakeholder, the University would like the opportunity to work collaboratively with Sydney Metro, Transport for NSW, Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to:

- encourage walking and cycling to Bankstown Metro station, with a focus to improve north south 'through movements' by connecting Appian Way (north) through the Metro station to Restwell Street (south);
- assist in identifying community initiatives and provide input into the proposed Active Transport Corridor.
- Contribute to the development of the Bankstown Integrated Town Centre Master Plan, to improve pedestrian access, amenity, and CPTED principles throughout the precinct.

## 4.CONCLUSION

The University is the largest education provider in Western Sydney, a supporter and contributor to the region's economic and social growth, and a leading advocate and champion for Greater Western Sydney. The University, through its Western Growth strategy is embarking on a large-scale transformative program that will bring the highest quality educational opportunities and world-class research expertise to the region. The Western Growth strategy is reshaping the campus network and building a new 'vertical campuses' in CBD locations and in 2021, a new Bankstown City campus will open adjacent to the civic centre, just 300m north of the Bankstown Metro station.

The University sees the Sydney Metro as essential infrastructure for Sydney and critical to the delivery of the Greater Sydney Commission vision for a Metropolis of Three Cities, and the Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy 2056. The Sydenham to Bankstown Metro Upgrade Project plays a significant part as a catalyst to improve social, environmental and economic growth. The proposed Metro train every four minutes in peak hours (every ten minutes off peak) will improve access to higher education in the region. A strong pedestrian link between the Bankstown Metro station and the University CBD Campus will ensure high patronage by staff and students alike.

Bankstown has been identified as a strategic education and health precinct by the Greater Sydney Commission. It is recognised that successful health and education precincts are dependent on the ability to leverage existing infrastructure and to co-exist with industry and community.

The almost simultaneous investments into Bankstown CBD in the pipeline spark the opportunity to improve connectivity 'to, through and from' the CBD that will greatly benefit both the local community and the region. The Bankstown Metro station upgrade is a significant opportunity to deliver a catalyst for broader CBD development and the University would like to reiterate key elements within the NSW Government Architect NSW Better Placed design policy and highlight the importance to maximise the Bankstown public domain surrounding the station to ensure it is safe, vibrant, functional, and will remain valuable and well-utilised long into the future. An Integrated Town Centre Master Plan that improve pedestrian access, amenity, and CPTED principles can further create a great place to study, work, live and play, as well as be a catalyst for economic and social growth.

The Preferred Infrastructure Report does not provide further detail on Bankstown station, stating that '*upgrades will be consistent with the Environmental Impact Statement*'. The University supports the design matters raised by Council in their EIS Submission relating to the Bankstown station upgrade and the opportunity for renewal and city shaping, including the need to:

- improve public domain surrounding the Bankstown station;
- improve connectivity from the station through the heart of the CBD;
- improve 'through movements' by connecting Appian Way (north) through the Metro station (central) to Restwell Street (south);
- improve active transport links; and
- investigate the opportunity to directly link with Western Sydney Airport and Liverpool as identified in the recently released Draft Future Transport Strategy 2056.

As a key stakeholder, the University would like the opportunity to work collaboratively with Sydney Metro, Transport for NSW, Council, and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to ensure the impacts of rail possessions and urban renewal disruptions during the rail line closure are minimised, encourage an active transport network through the CBD with a focus on walking and cycling with a north south connection, and provide input into the development of the Bankstown Integrated Town Centre Master Plan.