

The Hon. Chris Minns, MP  
NSW Premier  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

CC:

The Hon. Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, MP, Member for Grayndler  
The Hon. Treasurer, Daniel Mookhey, MLC  
The Hon. Minister John Graham, MLC  
The Hon. Minister Jo Haylen, MP  
The Hon. Minister Paul Scully, MP

July 2024

Dear Premier,

**Re: Light rail from Burwood to Green Square via Central Station**

We write to advocate for light rail from Parramatta Road to Green Square via Central Station. This letter is co-signed by organisations that continue to advocate for the long-term benefit of Sydney and are passionate about the potential of Parramatta Road.

Despite nearly a century of proposals and advocacy for reclaiming Parramatta Road, it remains Sydney's least favourite road – a traffic sewer and a scar on our city.

**Why now?**

The first proposal for light rail on Parramatta Road was made over 20 years ago, but now momentum and support for the idea is growing. Recent research from Business Sydney, Business Western Sydney, the Housing Industry Association and the Committee for Sydney all advocate for this outcome.

The opening of WestConnex, upcoming West Metro and increased capacity on the T1 Western Line all increase capacity for travel on adjacent routes to Parramatta Road, providing the opportunity for this route to be prioritised for light rail, active transport and north-south travel across the corridor.

Light rail along Parramatta Road will also unlock tens of thousands of new homes.

### **The perfect case study**

Light rail has transformed George Street in central Sydney. What was once a grimy street, clogged with noisy, polluting cars and buses, has been transformed into a tree-lined boulevard where people want to live, work, shop and socialise.

The CBD and South East light rail line has attracted over \$8 billion in private investment in the CBD and over \$35 billion across 1,700 construction projects along the entire light rail corridor.

### **The opportunity for housing uplift**

Light rail along Parramatta Road will attract investment in desperately needed new housing, contributing towards the National Housing Accord and local housing targets. Homes will be well located, close to parks, recreational facilities, schools and universities, shops and services.

Based on preliminary analysis, Mecone found Parramatta Road light rail would enable an additional 32,000 dwellings surrounding the corridor, between Central and Burwood (not including Green Square), based on the low- and mid-rise housing reforms.

### **The importance of placemaking**

Reclaiming Parramatta Road as a high street is possible with light rail as the catalyst. Making great places that people want to spend time and patronise local businesses on the corridor can only be achieved with more space for people.

We recognise the success of Sydney's light rail network and the investment it attracts in housing, jobs and communities. We welcome the City of Sydney's proposal to contribute \$100m towards enhancing the public domain alongside light rail including widening footpaths, planting trees, new street furniture, paving and lighting to create beautiful places for people and businesses, if the NSW Government commits to this project.

### **The potential to grow Sydney's innovation ecosystem and 24-hour economy**

Connecting Parramatta Road to Green Square via Central Station will transport thousands of workers and students to jobs and education, boost businesses, support the 24-hour economy, and contribute to Sydney's net-zero future by enabling more trips to be taken by public and active transport.

Light rail through the Tech Central Innovation Precinct will also support Sydney's start-up sector already estimated to be worth \$102 billion, attracting around \$10 billion investment each year. With improved connectivity, Tech Central will be Sydney's strongest drawcard for attracting talent, investment, scale-ups and global companies looking for an international office location.

### **Our key ask**

Commit to engaging with interested parties in the development of a business case for light rail along Parramatta Road to Green Square via Central Station.

While Parramatta Road will still be able to accommodate cars, light rail along the corridor could carry over 14,000 people per hour – the equivalent of 175 buses.

The route will service key places people want to get to such as the University of Sydney, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Broadway Shopping Centre, Tech Central and the library, aquatic centre and other community facilities at Green Square Town Centre and Burwood Town Centre.

We urge you to support this critical place-making project and commit to progress planning and community engagement as soon as possible.

It cannot wait any longer. Together, let's make it happen.

Kind regards,

Eamon Waterford  
CEO



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