

Chapter 9

Conclusion and next steps



9. Conclusion and next steps

9.1 Concluding statement

9.1.1 Statutory context summary

The Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 project is critical State significant infrastructure and is subject to assessment and approval in accordance with Part 5, Division 5.2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

An EIS was prepared to address the requirements of Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act, the SEARs and Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. The EIS was placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment between 9 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, and submissions were invited.

This report documents and considers the issues raised in public, organisation and government agency submissions received by the Department of Planning and Environment in accordance with section 5.17(6)(a) of the EP&A Act. Transport has carefully considered the content of the submissions and has prepared responses to the issues raised, which are provided in this report. The report also considers the issues raised in advice provided by NSW Government agencies and describes the actions taken since the EIS was placed on public exhibition.

Following exhibition of the EIS, Transport refined the reference design for the project. A number of amendments are proposed to respond to the issues raised in submissions and to minimise the impacts of the project. A separate Amendment Report has been prepared to describe and assess the potential impacts of the amended project and to identify how those impacts would be managed and mitigated. Further information about the amended project, and how the potential impacts considered by the EIS have changed, is provided in the Amendment Report.

9.1.2 Strategic context and justification summary

Information about the need for, and justification of, the project as part of Parramatta Light Rail is provided in Chapter 3 (Strategic context and need) of the EIS.

The proposed amendments, refinements and clarifications described in Chapter 4 (Actions since exhibition) of this report, issues raised in agency and community submissions and advice from NSW Government agencies, and responses to the issues raised do not change the justification of the project as outlined in the EIS.

In summary, the project, as part of Parramatta Light Rail, is needed to respond to growth in Sydney's Central River City and provide necessary public transport infrastructure to achieve the NSW Government's vision for the Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula area (GPOP) to become the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney.

The project would connect Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 and Parramatta's CBD to Sydney Olympic Park via Camellia, Ermington, Melrose Park and Wentworth Point. It would link communities north and south of the Parramatta River to the Parramatta CBD, the Camellia town centre, and the sport, entertainment, education and employment hub at Sydney Olympic Park.

The project would ensure people and places in Sydney's Central River City are connected by an effective, integrated transport network, which is fundamental to supporting growth – providing access to jobs, housing, education, cultural attractions, recreation activities and business interactions. The project would make two key contributions to the Central River City – providing convenient public and active transport connections and creating successful places.

The project would complete the development of Parramatta Light Rail, in accordance with the above strategies.

Further information about the justification for the amended project is provided in Chapter 7 (Justification of amended project and conclusion) of the Amendment Report.

9.1.3 Consideration of impacts

The project alignment, design and construction methodology have been developed to avoid and minimise impacts on the local and regional environment, and impacts on the local community and businesses, as far as possible. A project of this scale would inevitably have some impacts on the local environment and community, particularly during construction. The EIS was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the project and develop measures to mitigate the impacts and enhance the benefits of the project. The Amendment Report considers the potential impacts of the amended project and identifies any changes in the potential for environmental and community impacts.

Measures to minimise the identified potential impacts would be implemented during the design development, construction planning, construction and operation phases, considering the input of stakeholders and the local community. As described in section 9.2 below, the mitigation measures identified in the EIS have been updated to respond to the issues raised in submissions and during ongoing engagement with the community and key stakeholders, and to take in account additional work since the EIS was exhibited. The updated mitigation measures would be implemented to manage the potential impacts identified by the EIS, and in some cases remove them completely.

The majority of the potential construction related impacts would be effectively mitigated by the implementation of best practice construction management, including the implementation of the environmental management approaches described in Chapter 23 (Approach to environmental management and mitigation) of the EIS and the updated mitigation measures.

The environmental performance of the project would be managed by implementing the CEMP and operational environmental management system (see Chapter 23 of the EIS), which would also ensure compliance with relevant legislation and any conditions of approval. With the implementation of the proposed mitigation and management measures the potential environmental impacts of the project would be adequately managed.

9.2 Updated mitigation measures

After consideration of the issues raised in the submissions and additional work undertaken since exhibition (described in Chapter 4 (Actions taken since exhibition) of this report), the mitigation measures provided in the EIS have been updated to:

- make additional commitments to respond to issues raised in the submissions
- modify the wording in some instances so that the intent of the measure is clearer
- respond to the findings of further assessments described in section 4.2 of this report and the amendments described in the separate Amendment Report.

Some new measures have been added, and the wording of some measures has been updated.

The updated mitigation measures (see Appendix B) are Transport's commitments to avoiding and minimising the potential impacts of the project as far as practicable. Measures are grouped according to each environmental aspect considered by the EIS, with sub-groupings provided for design, construction and operation. The design measures provide the commitments for design development. Construction measures include those relating to construction planning and the development of the strategies and plans that will be implemented during construction. Operation measures will be implemented during the operational stage to avoid and minimise potential impacts during operation and maintenance of the project.

Appendix B of this report shows how the mitigation measures have changed compared to those presented in the EIS. In Appendix B, the new mitigation measures and additions to the mitigation measures included in the EIS are shown in red bold text, and where a measure or text has been deleted, it appears as strikethrough text.

9.3 Next steps

The Department of Planning and Environment will review the EIS, the submissions received, this report and the Amendment Report. Once the Department of Planning and Environment has completed its assessment, a draft Environmental Assessment Report will be prepared for the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, which may include recommended conditions of approval. The Environmental Assessment Report will then be provided to the Minister for Planning.

The Minister for Planning will then decide whether or not to approve the project and identify any conditions of approval that would apply. The Minister's determination, including any conditions of approval and the Environmental Assessment Report, will be published on the Department of Planning and Environment's Major Projects website (available via: [Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 | Planning Portal](#)). Transport will continue to engage with the community and key stakeholders during design development, construction and operation to minimise potential impacts on the local and regional environment and the community.