

# Identifying corridors of land for the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension for passenger rail

Transport for NSW | March 2018

## What is the South West Rail Link Extension corridor?

- Transport for NSW is identifying land for future passenger rail to support growth in Western Sydney and the planned Western Sydney Airport. These corridors of land are known as the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension.
- The NSW Government is planning for the long term transport needs of Western Sydney by identifying and protecting corridors of land for future passenger rail lines.
- The corridor for the South West Rail Link Extension will extend from Leppington station to North Bringelly for connections to the North South Rail Line corridor.
- The corridor is generally 60 metres in width depending on landform and expected rail operations.

## Why are we consulting with the community?

- We are inviting the community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended passenger rail corridors for the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension.
- While the land may not be needed for rail lines for some years, the NSW Government has to plan and protect the corridors to ensure land is available to deliver the infrastructure in the future when it is needed.

## What is the North South Rail Line corridor?

- The NSW Government is planning for the long term transport needs of Western Sydney by identifying and protecting corridors of land for future passenger rail lines.
- The North South Rail Line corridor provides a passenger rail connection between the Main West Line near St Marys and the Main South Line near Macarthur.
- The passenger rail corridor will serve the North West, Western Sydney, Greater Macarthur and South West Growth Areas, the planned Western Sydney Airport and the future employment lands identified for Western Sydney.
- The corridor is generally 60 metres in width depending on landform and expected rail operations.
- Tunnel sections have been identified along the North South Rail Line corridor between St Marys and south of the M4, and between Oran Park, Narellan and the Main South Line near Macarthur. The proposed tunnel sections avoid existing communities and preserve bushland.
- The locations of the tunnel sections are indicative and will require further detailed design work such as geotechnical investigations in the future.
- In the future, there will also be further investigations to extend the North South Rail Line corridor between St Marys and Schofields.
- Land has been identified at Oran Park and Narellan for future train stations. Land has also been identified near Macarthur Station to enable a future junction with the Main South Line.
- Planning will continue to identify suitable station locations along the corridor. In the future, there will be consultation with land owners, community and local councils on the proposed future station locations.

## When will land be acquired for the corridor?

- At this stage Transport for NSW is identifying and protecting the corridors of land for future passenger rail lines along the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension.
- There is no intention or need to immediately acquire land or property.
- Acquisition normally occurs closer to when the infrastructure is to be built, and this could be years or decades in the future.
- Once the passenger rail corridors have been protected, existing uses of property can continue however there is opportunity for property owners to consider owner-initiated early acquisition under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* before the land is needed by the government.

## What changes have been made since the 2015 exhibited corridor?

- Community feedback from the public consultation held between 6 June and 7 August 2015 has helped make the following refinements to the exhibited corridor:
  - The South West Rail Link Extension corridor at Rossmore has been realigned and straightened to better accommodate future rail operations and potential station locations.
  - The corridor north of Oran Park has shifted west to better serve the Oran Park Town Centre.
  - A tunnel section for the North South Rail Line has been identified between Oran Park and Narellan and the Main South Line near Macarthur to avoid existing housing, businesses, community facilities, heritage features and to preserve bushland.
  - A recommended North South Rail Line corridor between St Marys and Bringelly has been identified. This corridor will serve the planned Western Sydney Airport and surrounding suburbs in Sydney's west.
  - A tunnel section has also been identified between St Marys and south of the M4 Motorway to avoid existing housing, businesses, community facilities, heritage features and to preserve bushland.

## Have the corridors been identified in other plans?

- The recommended passenger rail corridors for the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension have been identified in collaboration with the Greater Sydney Commission and Department of Planning and Environment to support population, housing and job growth across Western Sydney.

- These corridors have been identified as key passenger rail options in *Future Transport 2056* and the *Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study Outcomes Report*.
- The recommended passenger rail corridors will ensure appropriate transport solutions are planned for the Western Sydney Airport which will be a catalyst in generating a range of new jobs and will enable people to work closer to home.

## Why do we need to plan for new passenger rail corridors?

- The NSW Government is planning for Sydney's future.
- Over the next 20 years Sydney is expected to grow by more than one million people.
- By 2056, eight million people will call Sydney home, with 725,000 new homes to be built and 817,000 extra jobs generated.
- To meet this growth the NSW Government is identifying and protecting land to build transport infrastructure in the future to serve Western Sydney.
- The future passenger rail corridors will:
  - Provide a major transport link between the North West, Western Sydney, Greater Macarthur and South West Priority Growth Areas.
  - Provide transport options to support population, jobs and economic growth across Western Sydney and for the planned Western Sydney Airport.
  - Support future town centres to be designed and planned around future transport infrastructure.
- The need to protect the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension for passenger rail services has been identified in a number of government documents such as *Future Transport 2056* (2018), *Greater Sydney Region Plan* (2018), *District Plans* (2018), *Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study Outcomes Report* (2018) and *NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan* (2012).

## When are the future passenger rail lines needed?

- Over the next ten years further detailed design and environmental assessments will be undertaken to allow infrastructure for passenger rail to be built in the North South Rail Line and South West Rail Link Extension when required.
- Transport for NSW will continue to monitor growth and consult with landowners, community and stakeholders as part of future planning for these passenger rail corridors.

## What is corridor protection?

- Corridor protection is a process to identify and protect an area of land for future transport infrastructure. This will ensure that land is available in the future, when it is needed.
- The benefit of corridor protection is that residents, community and stakeholders have certainty of exactly where the passenger rail lines will be built in the future. This will allow affected community members, property owners and stakeholders time to explore available options without pressure.

## How will future operational impacts be addressed?

- As part of the corridor identification process, we are consulting with landowners, community and stakeholders on the recommended corridors for South West Rail Link Extension and the North South Rail Line.
- Feedback from the consultation will help to refine the alignment of the corridors, and inform future technical investigations such as engineering, environmental and land use planning.
- The future infrastructure in the corridors will require detailed environmental assessment and approvals, and consideration of potential impacts before the construction of the infrastructure.

## How were the recommended passenger rail corridors identified?

- In 2015, we consulted on:
  - A recommended corridor between Leppington, Bringelly and Narellan.
  - A broader corridor between Main West Line near St Marys and Bringelly.
  - A study area between Narellan and the Main South Line.
- Community feedback has been considered together with key land use and environmental constraints to identify recommended passenger rail corridors. The key constraints which have informed the corridor planning process include:
  - The integration of land use and transport planning.
  - Land forms, geology and soils.
  - The environment, conservation areas and ecological communities.
  - Watercourses and flooding.
  - Aboriginal and European heritage.
  - Visual and landscape values.
  - Housing, land uses and potential impacts on amenity.
  - Major utility infrastructure such as electricity, water, telecommunications and gas.

## How will the recommended passenger rail corridors be protected?

- Following consultation with landowners, community and stakeholders, the final corridor will be recommended to the Department of Planning and Environment for protection.
- If the recommended corridor is accepted for protection, property owners, and stakeholders looking to develop or purchase in the corridor will be alerted to the presence of the planned future transport infrastructure.
- Existing uses of the land will be able to continue until the land is required for the future infrastructure.

## What community consultation has taken place?

- Community consultation was held between 6 June and 7 August 2015.
- There were meetings with land owners within the recommended corridor, workshops with community groups and four community drop-in sessions which resulted in more than 1,560 submissions from the community.
- Local councils and other state government agencies have also been consulted.
- The consultation was helpful in identifying issues such as:
  - Environmentally sensitive areas for potential wildlife movement.
  - Rural amenity and character of the area.
  - Consideration for existing housing and established communities.
  - Opportunity for an underground corridor between Oran Park and Narellan.
- Key feedback was that the community wanted certainty, and for the recommended corridors to be identified as soon as possible rather than exhibiting a short list of corridor options.

## What feedback can I provide?

- We are inviting landowners, community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended passenger rail corridors for North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension.

## How can I provide my feedback?

Please provide your comments and feedback:

- Using the interactive online map to see the locations of the recommended corridors at [transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors)
- Email [corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au)
- Write **Corridor Investigation Office**  
**Transport for NSW**  
**PO Box K659**  
**Haymarket NSW 1240**
- Call **1800 837 511**

## Will submissions be made public?

- Following the consultation period, all feedback and submissions may be published on the project webpage [transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors)
- Please advise us if you don't want your submission to be made publicly available.

## What is the process following the consultation period?

- All comments and feedback received will be considered by the project team.
- This feedback together with the outcomes of the technical investigations will help to refine the recommended passenger rail corridors for the North South Rail Line and the South West Rail Link Extension.
- The final corridor will then be recommended to the Department of Planning and Environment for protection.

## Are there any biobanking schemes for the corridor identification process?

The NSW Government is investigating a range of opportunities to address the challenging task of balancing infrastructure planned across Western Sydney with conserving our biodiversity for the future. Discussions are underway to:

- Establish biobanking sites to improve, maintain or conserve important areas of biodiversity.
- Confirm biobanking agreements established with land owners who commit to enhancing and protecting important areas of biodiversity.
- Create biodiversity credits for managing, improving or maintaining environmentally sensitive areas to offset the impact of development on biodiversity.
  - As part of this work there will be further opportunities identified to protect our biodiversity for the future. Information about biobanking schemes is available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website at [environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking](https://environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking)

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