

Identifying a corridor for the Western Sydney Freight Line

Transport for NSW | March 2018

What is the Western Sydney Freight Line corridor?

- Transport for NSW is identifying land for future transport infrastructure to support growth in the Western Sydney Airport Growth Area and surrounding employment lands which include the planned Western Sydney Airport. This corridor of land is known as the Western Sydney Freight Line.
- The NSW Government is planning for the long term transport needs of Western Sydney by identifying and protecting a corridor of land for a future freight rail line.
- The Western Sydney Freight Line corridor would provide for a dedicated freight rail line connecting the existing Southern Sydney Freight Line at Leightonfield near Villawood with the Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham.
- The corridor would enable the transfer of goods and services between Port Botany and existing and new industrial areas across Western Sydney.
- The corridor is generally 60 metres wide subject to landform and expected freight rail operations.

Why are we consulting with the community?

- We are inviting the community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended corridor between the M7 Motorway and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham.
- While the land may not be needed for some years, the NSW Government has to plan and protect the corridor to ensure land is available to deliver the infrastructure in the future when it is needed.

When will land be acquired for the corridor?

- At this stage Transport for NSW is only identifying and protecting a corridor of land for a future freight rail line for the Western Sydney Freight Line.
- 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 freight rail corridor has been protected, existing uses of property can continue however there is the 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.

How was the recommended freight rail corridor between M7 and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham identified?

- The NSW Government has identified a recommended corridor for the Western Sydney Freight Line in collaboration with the Greater Sydney Commission and Department of Planning and Environment to support planned population, housing, economic and job growth across Western Sydney.
- Population and economic growth across Western Sydney together with shifting patterns of business, is generating significant increases in freight needs. Transport for NSW is responding to this growth by planning for a dedicated freight rail line to enable the movement of goods we use every day whether for personal or business.
- This corridor has been identified as a key freight rail priority in *Future Transport 2056*, the *Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan* and the *NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan*.
- The recommended freight rail corridor between M7 and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham will ensure appropriate transport solutions are planned for the Western Sydney Airport Growth Area and surrounding employment lands including the Airport which will be a catalyst for generating a range of new jobs and will enable people to work closer to home.

When will the remaining Western Sydney Freight Line corridor be identified?

- More investigation is needed before we can identify a recommended corridor of land for the remaining Western Sydney Freight Line corridor between Leightonfield, Yennora and the M7 Motorway.
- This area will be subject to integrated land use and transport planning to understand how the future freight rail line can serve employment lands and stimulate more employment opportunities in the future.
- Transport for NSW will continue to work with the Greater Sydney Commission, Department of Planning and Environment and local councils to identify suitable land and will consult with landowners, community and stakeholders.

What is the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor?

- The Outer Sydney Orbital corridor is planned to connect the Illawarra with the Central Coast via Western Sydney.
- The corridor would provide for a future motorway and freight rail line.
- In the shorter term it will connect Box Hill in the north to the Hume Motorway near Menangle in the south.
- Concurrently, Transport for NSW is consulting on a recommended Outer Sydney Orbital corridor.
- The recommended corridor for the Western Sydney Freight Line will connect with the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham which accommodates a freight rail.
- A separate consultation is underway for the recommended Outer Sydney Orbital corridor. More information is available at transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors

Why do we need to plan for a future freight rail line?

- 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 Western Sydney Freight Line corridor will:
 - Provide direct freight rail connection between Port Botany and Western Sydney via the Southern Sydney Freight Line.

- Support the movement of container and bulk freight by rail across Greater Sydney.
- Provide freight rail connections to serve employment lands and future industries across the Western Sydney Airport Growth Area.
- Support the further separation of freight and passenger rail.
- Support the growth of freight and the logistics industry in Western Sydney.
- The need to protect the Western Sydney Freight Line corridor has been identified in a number of government documents such as *Future Transport 2056* (2018), *District Plans* (2018), *Greater Sydney Region Plan* (2018), *Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan* (2017) and *NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan* (2012).

How will the future Western Sydney Freight Line corridor support anticipated freight needs in Sydney?

- A future Western Sydney Freight Line corridor will provide for a dedicated freight rail link between Sydney's major port and Western Sydney. The connection will support the long term needs of Sydney with reduced dependence on the road network.
- The corridor would support Sydney's growing economy which has an increasing need for goods and services and will expand even further with the operation of the planned Western Sydney Airport and the future employment areas across the Western Sydney Airport Growth Area.
- Providing a dedicated freight rail corridor makes the delivery of freight more reliable, improves safety on our roads, and takes the pressure off the passenger rail network.
- A future Western Sydney Freight Line may encourage investment in a new Western Sydney intermodal terminal to support anticipated freight needs and employment opportunities across Sydney. An intermodal terminal is a facility for the transfer of freight from one mode of transport to another usually between freight trains and trucks.

When is the future freight rail line needed?

- Over the next 10 to 20 years further detailed design and environmental assessments will be undertaken to allow infrastructure for freight rail to be built in the Western Sydney Freight Line corridor when required.
- Transport for NSW will continue to monitor growth and consult with landowners, community and stakeholders as part of future planning for the freight rail corridor.

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 freight rail line 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 Western Sydney Freight Line corridor between the M7 Motorway and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham.
- Feedback from the consultation will help refine the corridor alignment, and inform future technical investigations such as engineering, environmental and land use planning.
- The future infrastructure in the corridor will require detailed environmental assessment and approvals, and consideration of potential impacts before construction of the infrastructure.

What investigations have been undertaken for the recommended Western Sydney Freight corridor?

- Key land use constraints have informed the corridor identification process for the recommended Western Sydney Freight Line between M7 Motorway and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital. Investigations 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 freight rail corridor 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?

- Consultation for the Western Sydney Freight Line corridor was undertaken in 2017 as part of the broader consultation for *Future Transport 2056, District Plans, Greater Sydney Region Plan* and the *Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan*.
- A future Western Sydney Freight Line corridor is referenced in the *NSW Freight and Ports Strategy* (2013). The recommended corridor for the future Western Sydney Freight Line corridor also draws on feedback received through the consultation processes on this Strategy. We consulted government agencies, local councils, industry groups and peak bodies.

What feedback can I provide?

- We are inviting landowners, community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended corridor for the Western Sydney Freight Line between the M7 Motorway and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham.

How can I provide my feedback?

Please provide your comments and feedback:

- Using the interactive online map to see the location of the recommended corridor at transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors
- Email 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
- 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 refine the recommended Western Sydney Freight Line corridor between the M7 Motorway and the planned Outer Sydney Orbital's freight rail corridor near Luddenham.
- 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

transport.nsw.gov.au

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