



## **Premier lemma unveils Sydney's first Euro-style metro rail project**

**EMBARGOED MIDDAY:** March 18, 2008

Premier Morris lemma today unveiled a \$12 billion\* European-style metro rail line for Sydney – which would service growth areas from the CBD to the city's north-west.

Mr lemma said the project would provide fast, high capacity rail services – independent to the CityRail network – and was part of his vision for Sydney's public transport future.

Mr lemma said the **North West Metro** was the first major transport initiative to be unveiled under the NSW Government's new **Sydney Link** program.

It is the culmination of the work Mr lemma first detailed in the Premier's Urban Transport Statement in late 2006.

"The North West Metro will run underground from the city, beneath Victoria Road towards Top Ryde, and then via Epping to Castle Hill, Norwest and Rouse Hill," Mr lemma said.

"There will be 17 stations on the metro line, and interchanges with key CityRail and bus routes. It will run on conventional track, similar to CityRail.

"The metro is a rapid, single-deck heavy rail system which will take pressure off the current rail network."

Metro rail is already operating successfully in more than 30 cities around the world and in Sydney will form a broader strategy to benefit more than 2 million people.

Mr lemma said construction of the new line would begin from both ends in 2010 with the first trains operating between Epping and the Hills Centre in 2015.

The North West Metro will then extend to Rouse Hill, with metros running between Rouse Hill and the CBD by 2017.

Mr lemma said the NSW Government would progressively unveil additional components to its new Sydney Link package.

"The North West Metro is just the start for Sydney," Mr lemma said.

"We are undertaking the biggest transport infrastructure program in Australia's history.

"It will change the way Sydney works, lives and breathes."

Mr lemma said metro was a world-class rail system that:

- is separate from the existing road and rail network;
- is fast, frequent and efficient carrying large numbers of people reducing commute times on busy corridors by up to 50 per cent;

- delivers an independent mode of transport adding significant additional capacity; and
- provides exciting community opportunities around new metro stations.

“When my Government released the Urban Transport Statement in late 2006 we outlined our broad vision for Sydney’s future transport needs,” Mr lemma said.

“Since then we have been working hard to develop projects that will keep Sydney moving and will cater for growth.

“No single transport project in isolation will provide the answers we need.

“Sydney Link will deliver real benefits to Sydney and we will be progressively detailing key components. The first link in that plan is the North West Metro.”

Mr lemma said the travel times for the new metro would be the greatest win for commuters.

“People in the North West will experience a revolution in travel times with the trip from Rouse Hill to the City slashed from almost an hour-and-a-half to less than 45 minutes.

“That’s even quicker than the previously announced northwest rail project which saw travel times of 50 minutes from Rouse Hill.

“For those living at Gladesville, metro will deliver a trip to the city in just 11 minutes, while from Rozelle you will be at Wynyard in just five minutes using the metro.

“The construction of the North West Metro provides an additional corridor into the CBD for residents of the north west.”

Transport Minister John Watkins said the people of Sydney would be invited to have their say on the North West Metro project for the next six weeks before detailed environmental assessment and planning starts.

“A community feedback program will run until April 29. We want to hear what people think about these projects before we commence the next step in the processes of environmental assessment, detailed planning and tender design,” Mr Watkins said.

“A high profile community awareness campaign will tell people more about Sydney Link and to give them the chance to have their say.

“People can tell us their views by emailing [info@sydlink.com.au](mailto:info@sydlink.com.au) or from tomorrow visit the website [www.sydlink.com.au](http://www.sydlink.com.au). There is also a toll free number 1800 636 910.”

\*\$12bn – escalated cost for completion in 2017.