



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION TO BE INVESTIGATED

Embargoed until 5am Tuesday 4 August 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today announced that a light rail extension assessment study would now be carried out, following support from four local councils.

Mr Campbell wrote to Ashfield, Marrickville, Leichhardt and City of Sydney councils seeking a contribution towards the study, which would look at potential extensions in the Inner West and CBD.

“Previous studies into light rail extensions are out of date and in order for Government to make an informed decision on any future extension, it is important that we have the latest information available,” Mr Campbell said.

“The objective of the study is to examine the costs and possible benefits and determine whether there is value for money in extending the light rail system.

“The study will look at the capital investment associated with the proposed extensions, as well as demand, technical issues, integration with other public transport, operating costs and other impacts.

“The four councils have together contributed \$140,000 towards the cost of the study, while the Government will contribute the remainder, which is expected to be around \$110,000.”

Deputy Premier and Marrickville MP Carmel Tebbutt welcomed the study and said it was a sensible step forward.

“The NSW Government is committed to examining public transport options for Sydney and this study is an example of that,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“A Project Steering Committee will now be established to oversee the study and each council has been asked to nominate a representative.

“The Government has already moved to reserve the light rail corridor and keep it in public hands until a decision is made on its future use.

“Residents expect a variety of accessible and integrated public transport options and this study is about making sure we look at all of the options that are available.”

The study will commence shortly and will take around six months to complete.

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