

Sydney Metro Network Stage 2 (Central – Westmead)

Location: Sydney CBD—Westmead

Client: Sydney Metro

Duration: June 2009 – March 2010

Involvement: Planning Approvals Director

PlanCom Consulting Pty Ltd was engaged by Sydney Metro to manage the approvals delivery process for the \$8 billion underground metro rail project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

The western corridor to central Sydney is Sydney's busiest, accounting for 9.26 million passenger kilometres of daily travel. This corridor generates \$125 billion in economic activity per annum, 12 per cent of the total national Australian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 38 per cent of the GDP of the Sydney area.

Metro Stage 2 would travel 24 kilometres from Central to Westmead. It will be a high-frequency rapid train service with 11 new stations linking the Sydney CBD, Westmead, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, established areas in the inner west and future growth precincts west of Sydney Olympic Park. The project also involved stabling and maintenance facilities at Rozelle Marshalling Yards.

Metro Stage 2 would have the following key economic benefits:

1. Public transport user cost savings (including savings in travel time, costs and reduction in train crowding)
2. Private transport user cost savings
3. Third party savings (savings from reduced congestion and externalities)
4. Increased fare revenues
5. Asset values would extend beyond the 30-year life of the economic assessment period

The economic viability of Metro Stage 2 was assessed using international benchmarks. The UK Department for Transport appraisal framework found that Metro Stage 2 would return a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 2.9. The Cross Rail project and Jubilee Line Extension had a BCR outcome of 1.8 and 1.7 respectively. Therefore the Metro Stage 2 project was considered a highly credible project based on international benchmarking.

The project was cancelled in February 2010 by the NSW government.

For more information visit www.plancom.com.au or call (02) 9331 4336.

Photo: Sydney Metro Network Stage 2 Environmental Assessment Main Volume

