

What is a transport link?

A transport link is a strip of land used for transport infrastructure. The links are paths for any option of travel including freight trains.

What is the Western Sydney Freight Line?

The Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1) is a dedicated freight line located between Horsley Park and Luddenham, passing through the Western Sydney Employment Area and Western Parkland City.

A future Stage 2 allows for the connection to the Southern Sydney Freight Line at Leightonfield, linking to Port Botany via the Metropolitan Freight Network (MFN). When both stages are completed, they will support a dedicated freight rail network through Western Sydney linking regional NSW with the Western Parkland City and Greater Sydney. The future freight line will also connect with the planned Western Sydney Intermodal Terminal near Mamre Road.

The Western Sydney Freight Line as a combination of stages 1 and 2 will allow the transport of goods by rail to the growing industrial areas and distribution centres in Western Sydney, and will provide a link from Western NSW to Port Botany for imports and export opportunities.

Why is this important?

It has never been more important to ensure NSW stays connected. Planning for infrastructure is critical to ensure the delivery of goods across communities in NSW. Having a reliable freight network means everyday items such as groceries and household supplies can be delivered safely and on time.

By 2056, the Western Parkland City will be home to over 1.5 million people. Combined with the new Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport and new surrounding business area, effective transport links are essential to connect residents to jobs and allow the new city to be connected to the rest of the state, and with the new airport, the world. Future transport links such as the Western Sydney Freight Line helps enable the NSW Government in achieving its 30 minute city vision.

The freight industry is the backbone of NSW and is worth \$66 billion to our economy every year, providing an essential service to communities and businesses across the state. Preserving land for the Western Sydney Freight

Line ensures that residents and businesses in the Western Parkland City and across Greater Sydney have a freight network that can deliver goods to them, or have their goods imported and exported. Businesses in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis will be able to distribute the goods and services through freight rail through to the rest of Sydney, regional NSW and through the new airport, the world. The transport link will also provide regional freight with future access to a dedicated freight network allowing more export opportunities through Port Botany and Port Kembla.

A dedicated freight rail line will help reduce freight being moved on roads thereby reducing congestion on our road network, improving road safety and freeing up passenger rail capacity on the Main West Rail Line (also known as the T1 Western Line) to allow for more passenger train services.

What is corridor preservation?

Corridor preservation is the process of reserving land needed for future transport links.

The corridor preservation process identifies and secures land needed for future infrastructure, such as roads and rail lines, before competing development comes along in a way that would prevent the land from being available for future transport infrastructure.

Corridor preservation is important when planning for the needs of growing communities and industries, to accommodate commuters, workers, businesses and industries who all rely on different types of transport modes. Planning the necessary future transport links now ensures that as NSW grows, communities will have access to transport.

In the Western Parkland City, new transport links are needed to serve new jobs, homes and growing industries around the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport and the surrounding business area (Aerotropolis). These transport links also serve as important connections to other regional centres in NSW, joining industries, communities and employment areas across the state.

FAQs

Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1)



How has the Western Sydney Freight Line been confirmed?

The Corridors State Environmental Planning Policy will come into effect in the next few days. This is known as 'gazettal' because it is a piece of legislation that appears in the NSW Government Gazette, which is the official record of all NSW Government legislation. Gazettal means that the use of land in this area has the force of law.

While Transport for NSW does not own the land, rezoning through 'gazettal' gives Transport for NSW a say over what private landowners can do with it up until any future transport projects are constructed on that land.

Will the Western Sydney Freight Line affect me?

There is no immediate impact on how you use your property or land with the gazettal of the Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1). Existing uses of your property or land can continue.

Any development proposed over \$200,000 will need to be referred to Transport for NSW for agreement.

Acquisition of your property is not needed by government until construction of the Western Sydney Freight Line, which could be many years or decades away.

How have we consulted the community?

We consulted the community on the Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1) in 2017. This transport link was also featured as part of the broader consultation for the NSW Government's Future Transport 2056, District Plans – Greater Sydney Region Plan and NSW Freight and Ports Plan (a draft version was released at the time).

Transport for NSW held another round of community consultation activities between 26 March and 1 June 2018 involving two Western Sydney Freight Line community drop-in sessions.

We spoke with community, council, industry and other stakeholders during consultation. This allowed for feedback and input into the final freight line alignment.

Importantly, it helped identify and provide information about issues such as:

- transport planning and land use in the area
- Aboriginal and European heritage
- areas prone to flooding
- impacts on amenity and property
- environmental and conservation areas, and
- existing utilities infrastructure.

The consultation period also included the opportunity for formal submissions from community and other stakeholders to provide written feedback regarding the Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1).

All feedback received from consultation activities in 2018, including 93 submissions, have been reviewed for consideration and determination of the freight rail line.

What has changed since consultation?

After receiving valuable feedback from the community, the NSW Government has confirmed the following change to the Western Sydney Freight Line:

- Realignment of the Western Sydney Freight Line near Luddenham, Ropes Creek and Horsley Park to avoid property impact.

What's happened to my submission?

All submissions have been reviewed. Recommendations for changes to corridors were taken into consideration before the alignments were finalised. If you made a submission, a response will be sent to you.

What happens next?

The final recommended transport link is thoroughly evaluated and considered in a document called a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is reviewed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

If DPIE supports the SEA, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces then gazettes the recommended transport link and the rezoning of the land has immediate effect.

Can I still provide feedback?

The period for formal feedback submissions closed on 1 June 2018. If you would like to speak to a member of the project team or have any questions about the Western Sydney Freight Line, please email us at corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au or give us a call on **1800 837 511**. Alternatively, you may wish to write to us at **Corridor Investigation Office, Transport for NSW, PO BOX K659 Haymarket NSW 1240**.

How is impact on the environment being managed?

Transport for NSW is partnering with the DPIE to develop a conservation plan for Western Sydney. The plan will protect the region's threatened, native plants and animals. It will also support the needs of the community through the creation of green and public spaces.

FAQs

Western Sydney Freight Line (Stage 1)



The conservation plan for the Western Parkland City, which includes the future transport links, is known as the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan. This plan provides a holistic and coordinated government approach, allowing agencies to work together to protect biodiversity and meet requirements for offsetting in the proposed growth areas. For more information on the conservation plan, visit planning.nsw.gov.au/cpcp.

What is biodiversity offsetting?

Biodiversity refers to the wide collection of plants and animals of an area.

Biodiversity offsetting is a process to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on threatened plants and animals from development and clearing. This ensures land that is used to offset impacts is secured in-perpetuity. These trade-offs can be required by a legislative or planning rules for developers, infrastructure delivery partners or organisations who are disturbing biodiversity.

For more information on this, visit the DPIE website at planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Biodiversity

Write: Corridor Investigation Office
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