



Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 6 September 2011

INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION TO PROCEED AS GREENWAY IS DEFERRED

Today's State Budget delivers funding for the Inner West Light Rail Extension but the associated walking and cycle path has been deferred following revelations Labor's cost estimates were wildly misleading.

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian said the project, known as the Greenway, was yet another victim of Labor's propensity for back-of-the-envelope calculations which bore no resemblance to reality.

Labor had estimated the cost of the light rail extension, from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill, at \$120 million and the Greenway at \$30 million.

But the latest advice from the Department of Transport put the costs at \$176 million for the light rail extension and \$37 million for the Greenway.

"This was another classic case of Labor plucking figures and timeframes out of thin air to suit their electoral agenda," Ms Berejiklian said.

"They said the light rail extension could be built by 2012 for \$120 million but that was never going to be the case," she said.

"In fact, as well as cost blowouts, Labor misled the public on the timeframe, with the most recent estimated completion date being 2014."

The Department of Transport also advises there are a number of unresolved design issues related to the Greenway that are causing delays to the light rail project.

"Labor promised the Greenway just months before the election without doing their homework – in fact they hadn't even done an engineering design study before they rushed out to announce the project," Ms Berejiklian said.

"As usual, Labor's election costings were completely wrong because they'd failed to do the proper planning or the engineering design work.

"We are committed to the light rail project and our dedicated Light Rail Project Team will continue to investigate the best way deliver the extension to the Inner West.

"A future Greenway will be properly planned – like all active transport options – as part of the wider transport network.

"It makes no sense to continue Labor's incompetent attempts at building a cycling network without an integrated transport masterplan that includes active transport.

"When Labor announced the Greenway we said it required further investigation before it could be supported.

"That work has shown the project is not in the best interest of commuters or taxpayers at this time," Ms Berejiklian said.

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