



24 May 2006

received 24 May 06

Mr Sam Haddad  
Director-General  
Department of Planning  
23-33 Bridge Street  
GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

**Attention:** Mr Scott Jeffries & Ms Lisa Mitchell

Dear Mr Haddad

**Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program - North West Rail Link  
Request for Environmental Assessment Requirements and Authorisation by Minister to proceed  
with a Concept Plan**

On 9 June 2005, the NSW Government announced an investment of \$8 billion in the development of the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program consisting of three separate railway projects known as the South West Rail Link ("SWRL"), North West Rail Link ("NWRL"), and Redfern to Chatswood Rail Link.

Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation ("TIDC") is a statutory State owned corporation established under the *Transport Administration Act 1988* ("TA Act") having as its principal function the development of major railway systems and other major transport projects. On 22 May 2006, in accordance with s18E(1) of the TA Act, TIDC was given responsibility for carrying out the projects comprised in the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program. TIDC reports to a Project Steering Group that includes representatives of the Premier's Department, the Department of Planning (DoP), Treasury, the Ministry of Transport and Railcorp.

The north west sector of the Sydney Metropolitan Region has been identified by the NSW Government as major growth areas. The NWRL will provide essential transport infrastructure for existing residential and commercial areas in the north west sector. It will also cater for future growth areas, including those known as the North West Growth Centre and Balmoral Road and Rouse Hill Regional Centre Release Areas.

On 7 April 2006 the Minister for Planning made an order under section 75B(1)(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("Planning Act"), declaring that the NWRL is a project to which Part 3A of the Planning Act applies.

TIDC has now prepared a Project Application and Preliminary Environmental Assessment ("PA & PEA") for the NWRL which is contained in attachment 'A' to this letter. A PA form has also been prepared (Attachment 'B'). The PA & PEA for the NWRL has been prepared having regard to the draft guidelines produced by the DoP and following a Planning Focus Meeting held on 19 December 2005. TIDC has also had further consultations with DoP assessment officers.

On the basis of the PA & PEA, TIDC requests:

1. that the Minister, pursuant to section 75M(1) of the Planning Act, authorise TIDC to submit of a concept plan for the NWRL. In this respect, as indicated in Section 2.2.1 of the PA & PEA, TIDC believes that the submission of a Concept Plan is appropriate for the NWRL in view of the scale, timing and complexity of the project. The establishment of a rail corridor through a concept plan approval process will ensure better integration of land use and transport planning

114629



in the local government areas affected by the NWRL. Submission of a Concept Plan will also enable further community involvement in the detailed planning phase and in the refinement of the project. In addition, it will provide TIDC with a greater level of certainty whilst retaining necessary flexibility for the refinement of the design.

2. that the Director-General prepare environmental assessment requirements for the NWRL under section 75F(2) of the Planning Act. In this regard, Chapter 5 of the PA & PEA identifies key environmental issues associated with the NWRL. Chapter 6 outlines the proposed scope of the environmental assessment of the NWRL.

I would be happy to provide any additional information to the Department should that be required.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Halliday', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Martin Halliday  
Director, Planning and Environment



# Major Projects application



NSW GOVERNMENT  
Department of Planning

Date received: 24/5/06

Project Application No. 06-0157

## 1. Before you lodge

This form is required to apply for the approval of the Minister to carry out a Project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (the Act) applies.

Before lodging this application, it is recommended that you first consult with the Department of Planning (the Department) concerning your Project.

Please be aware that you may need to conduct a Planning Focus Meeting before lodging this application involving the Department, relevant agencies, Council or other groups identified by the Department. If you are required to conduct a Planning Focus Meeting, you will need to provide details and outcomes arising from the meeting.

To ensure that your application is accepted as being duly made, you must

- complete ALL parts of this form, and
- submit all relevant information required by this form.

All applications must be lodged with the Director-General, by courier or mail.

Ground floor, 23-33 Bridge Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000  
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001  
DX 10181 Sydney Stock Exchange  
t: 02 9228 6111  
f: 02 9228 6455

## 2. Details of the proponent

Company/organisation/agency

Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation

ABN

28 458 799 157

☒ Mr ☐ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Dr ☐ Other

First name

Martin

Family name

Halliday

STREET ADDRESS

Unit/street no.

L7, Tower A

Street name

Zenith Centre, 821 – 823 Pacific Highway

Suburb or town

Chatswood

State

NSW

Postcode

2067

POSTAL ADDRESS (or mark 'as above')

Locked Bag 6501

Suburb or town

St Leonards

State

NSW

Postcode

2065

Daytime telephone

02 9200 0200

Fax

02 9200 0290

Mobile

Email

mail@tidc.nsw.gov.au

### 3. Identify the land you propose to develop

#### STREET ADDRESS

Unit/street no.

Street or property name

Suburb, town or locality

Postcode

Local government area

#### REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

OR: detailed description of land attached: ☒

The real property description is found on a map of the land or on the title documents for the land. If you are unsure of the real property description, you should contact the Department of Lands.

Please ensure that you place a slash (/) to distinguish between the lot, section, DP and strata numbers. If the Major Project applies to more than one piece of land, please use a comma to distinguish between each real property description.

Where the Major Project is subject to Clause 8F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and in lieu of completing the above, a description or detailed plan of the land affected must be included with the documents required with Part 4 below.

### 4. Proposed Major Project – Description and other Requirements

Provide a brief title for your Project that includes all significant components. If the application relates to only part of a Project, include a clear title that describes the relevant part.

Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program - North West Rail Link

The proposed North West Rail Link would be the principal trunk public transport line in Sydney's North West. It would connect with the Main North Line between Beecroft and Cheltenham Stations and terminate at Rouse Hill Town Centre. The rail link would be twin track, approximately 23km in length and it would include:

- A 3 km surface quadruplication of the Main North Line between Epping and Beecroft, including station upgrades such as an easy access upgrade at Cheltenham Station and new rail bridge over the M2;
- A 16 km section in tunnel from the Main North Line to north of Norwest Business Park;
- A 4 km surface section from north of Norwest Business Park to Rouse Hill;
- Six new stations (Franklin Road, Castle Hill, Hills Centre, Norwest, Burns Road and Rouse Hill);
- A train stabling facility at Rouse Hill, which would include facilities for cleaning and maintenance of stabled trains; and
- Ancillary tunnel support facilities such as tunnel ventilation, tunnel service facility, transformers, power supply, substations, section huts, signalling and a water treatment plant.

Is the application related only to a part of a Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

You are also required to provide a Project Description Report and address any matters required by the Director-General in accordance with 75E of the Act. Failure to do so may lead to your application being rejected.

Is a Project Description attached:

Hard copy: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Electronic version: ☒ Yes ☐ No

(NB: An electronic copy is required as all applications must be provided on the Department's website.

You should contact the Department on the correct electronic format).

Is the Project Description Report consistent with the requirements of any Guideline produced by the Department (including any draft)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does the Project Description Report include additional matters required by the Director-General, such as evidence of a Planning Focus Meeting and consultation? ☒ Yes ☐ No

#### CONCEPT APPROVAL

If you are applying for a **concept approval**, the Department's *Concept Approval Guideline* should be consulted and the matters identified therein must be addressed as part of your application.

Does the Project Description Report submitted address the relevant guidelines for Concept Approvals? ☒ Yes ☐ No

#### FULL TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS

Please indicate the number of jobs created by the proposed Major Project. This should be expressed as a proportion of full time jobs over a full year.

Construction jobs (full-time equivalent)

To be advised

Operational jobs (full-time equivalent)

To be advised

### 5. Approvals from state agencies

Does the proposed Major Project require any of the following: (tick all appropriate)

- ☐ an aquaculture permit under section 144 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- ☐ an approval under section 15 of the *Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961*
- ☐ a mining lease under the *Mining Act 1992*
- ☐ a production lease under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*
- ☒ an environment protection licence under Chapter 3 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (for any of the purposes referred to in section 43 of that Act)
- ☒ a consent under section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*

### 6. Application fee

You are required to pay a fee for the assessment of a Major Project. This fee is based on the estimated cost of the Major Project.

The Department requires that you pay a proportion of the total fee with this application and you should consult with the Department before lodging this application to determine the proportion to be paid.

Estimated Project Cost

To be advised

### 7. Owner's Consent

As the owner(s) of the above property, I/we consent to this application being made on our behalf by the Proponent:

Signature

N/A

Signature

Name

Name

Date

Date

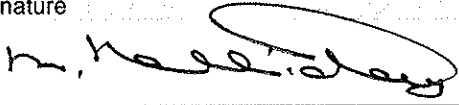
Note: The Department will not accept an application for a Major Project without having the signature of the owner of the land, **unless** the Major Project is subject to Clause 8F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

### 8. Proponent's Signatures

As the proponent(s) of the proposed Major Project and in signing below, I/we hereby:

- provide a description of the proposed Project and address all matters required by the Director-General pursuant to Section 75E of the Act, and
- apply, subject to satisfying Clause 8D of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, for the Director-General Environmental Assessment Requirements pursuant to Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and
- declare that all information contained within this application is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature



In what capacity are you signing if you are not the proponent

Name

Martin Halliday  
Director, Planning & Environment

Name, if you are not the proponent

Date

24.5.06