

Light Rail Business Case - Community Advisory Panel

10th Floor Board Room, 10 Murray Street

9am 27 October 2010

Minutes

Attendees

Panel Members

- Dr Stewart Williams - Chairperson (University of Tasmania)
- Mr Leyon Parker (Hobart City Council)
- Mayor Adriana Taylor (Glenorchy City Council)
- Mr Hadley Sides (Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority)
- Mr Ben Johnston (Northern Suburbs Rail Action Group)
- Ms Anita Robertson (Metro Tasmania)
- Mayor Tony Foster (Brighton Council)
- Ms Emma Riley (Planning Institute of Australia)
- Mr Toby Rowallan (Future Transport Tasmania)

*Please note, the Minister for Sustainable Transport, Nick McKim, advisors Babette Moate and Andrew Perry, and DIER Secretary Norm McIlfratrick attended the first 30 minutes of the meeting.

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

- Mr Peter Kruup – Project Manager (Principal Transport Economist, Passenger Transport Policy)
- Mr James Verrier (Assistant Director, Passenger Transport Policy)
- Mr James Beach - Minutes (Policy Analyst, Passenger Transport Policy)

Apologies

- Ms Heather Haselgrove (Metro Tasmania)
- Mr David Hope (Director, Passenger Transport Policy)

1. Introductions and Minister's welcome

The Minister welcomed all panel members, and introduced attendees. Mr Norm McIlfratrick provided some additional introductory remarks on the broader infrastructure environment into which the development of the Business Case fits, including the potential role of Infrastructure Australia. Mr McIlfratrick noted the desirability of completing work on the Business Case by

the end of the 2010/11 financial year, but stressed that delivery of a quality product is to be a higher priority.

2. Housekeeping

A media statement, released by Minister McKim's office, was tabled for Panel members' information.

The independent role of the Chairperson Stewart Williams was highlighted along with the key role of DIER and the Project Manager Peter Kruup.

The panel agreed the specific nature of discussions should be kept confidential to encourage the frank exchange of ideas. Mr Ben Johnson stated that he intended on providing general feedback on Panel meetings to community meetings of the Light Rail Action Group (LRAG).

The Panel agreed on the recording and disbursement of written minutes by DIER, to Panel members after each meeting.

3. Project Terms of Reference

Panel members were invited to provide comments on the Project Terms of Reference (ToR).

The following concerns were raised:

- The 'Northern Suburbs' focus of the ToR: It was suggested that the Hobart CBD to Northern Suburbs connection be highlighted.
- The need for other options with the loops such as additional double tracking to improve the frequency and reliability of service.
- The amalgamation of stages one and two in the ToR; It was suggested this separation limited the opportunity for Brighton Council Area to be considered in the Project and that the project consultant should advise on any staging.
- The need for Heavy Freight Rail and Heritage passenger rail access to the corridor to be maintained.
- The impact on the inner city cycleway to be considered. It was agreed that the ToR needed to be specific about maintaining the functionality of the cycleway.
- The need to identify the potential importance of 'brownfields' redevelopment, without seeking to address this area in detail in the Business Case itself.
- Integration of the bus network (and potentially cross-river ferry services) as well as other road-based modes including private vehicles with park and ride and kiss and ride schemes into the proposed light rail services to be considered.
- Exclusions from the Business Case should be clarified to exclude water based transport running in parallel to the rail corridor.

The panel agreed the wording of the ToR needed to be revised in light of the above comments.

The importance of considering Federal Government requirements, and, in particular, aligning with Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and Infrastructure Australia requirements, was highlighted by members of the Panel.

The need for a Consultant to have broad experience in more than light rail was raised. Specifically, it was suggested that experience with general passenger transport, environmental issues and social planning as well as economics be strongly considered.

Action Item 1.1 Any additional comments on the current draft ToR to be made out of session can be forwarded to either the Chairperson Stewart Williams or Project Manager Peter Kruup.

4. Project overview and schedule

Schedule -

The Panel agreed to finalise the ToR by the end of November, with DIER officers to provide Panel members with a revised copy within two weeks of the 27 October 2010 meeting.

Panel members agreed that documentation should be provided with a minimum of five working days before meetings.

The Panel was advised of the potential impact of the Christmas/New Year period on the timeframe for the release of a Request for Tender (RFT).

The Panel accepted this advice and acknowledged that, in light of above, a Consultant would be unlikely to be able to commence work prior to early February 2011. The Panel confirmed the importance of 30 June 2011 as a deadline for the provision of at least a draft report to the Panel.

The impact of consultation with key stakeholders on a Consultant's ability to work within set timeframes was discussed by Panel members. Panel members were advised that timelines would need to be adjusted in light of the consultation required. The nature of 'key' stakeholders was discussed by the Panel and it was concluded that this needed to be specifically outlined in the RFT.

DIER officers advised that a draft RFT would be provided for Panel members to review within two weeks of 27 October 2010.

It was also agreed that a draft timeframe for the Project would be provided to Panel members by DIER.

Overview –

The Panel discussed the timeframe (15-30 years) over which a cost-benefit analysis was to be undertaken. The Panel also agreed that the future role of the road based public transport network an important consideration.

The Panel discussed the importance of considering the criteria set by Infrastructure Australia. The Panel agreed that while a Consultant would not be expected to explicitly address the specific criteria, the Business Case would need to contain the relevant information required by DIER to complete any subsequent submission to Infrastructure Australia.

Panel members asked whether a contracted Consultant would provide a comparison of other transport modes in light of the operating costs of light rail. In answer, Panel members were

advised that a full economic analysis capturing societal benefits was required by the ToR. The need at least to identify, and provide a high level assessment of alternatives was also highlighted by DIER.

Ms Anita Robertson advised Panel members that Metro Tasmania considered the preservation of the existing corridor important in the future integration of multiple transport modes regardless of the outcome of the Business Case. Metro Tasmania's views on the existing corridor were acknowledged, but the Project's central focus on light rail was reiterated.

Panel members discussed the issues to be addressed before the next Community Advisory Panel meeting, agreeing on the following actions:

Action Item 1.2 – *DIER officers to provide Panel members with finalised ToR by 10 November 2010.*

Action Item 1.3 – *DIER officers to provide Panel members with a draft RFT by 10 November 2010.*

5. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the Panel will focus on finalising the ToR and RFT at the next meeting.

The Panel agreed for the next meeting to be held at the level 10 Boardroom, 10 Murray Street, **9am 17 November 2010.**

6. Any Other Business

The Panel agreed to share members contact details within the group, with each member supplying a short biography to be included with contact information.

Peter Kruup noted the substantial number of passenger transport case studies available for information and agreed to circulate a selection of this material.

Action Item 1.4 - All members to provide short biographical details to Peter Kruup,

Action Item 1.5 - Peter Kruup to distribute key case studies and other information to panel members.

Chairperson Stewart Williams declared the meeting closed 10.40am.