

Enquiries: Sonya de Lacey
Phone: 6233 3142
Fax: 6233 5337
Email sonya.delacey@dier.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: 038152/010 Your Ref:

Mr Matthew Groom MP
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Attention: Laura Oldfield

Dear Mr Groom

I write further to my letter dated 1 November 2010, in response to your request for information on the Northern Suburbs Light Rail Project. I respond in the form of an active disclosure.

Update on the development of the business case study into Northern Suburbs Light Rail Project:

a. Progress on the development of a community advisory panel to be set-up to help develop the business case study.

The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) has been established, and a Chair selected. The first meeting of the CAP took place on 27 October 2010. The scheduling of the first meeting of the CAP was later than had been anticipated, due primarily to delays in appointing a project manager within DIER specifically to oversee the Business Case. Fortunately, a highly qualified officer within DIER has recently become available to assume this role and has commenced duties in the relevant branch.

b. Progress on the development of a community advisory panel to be set-up to help develop the business case study.

The Business Case itself requires a Terms of Reference for a consultant to undertake the specialised work involved. As this is a critical document that establishes the scope of the Case, it is essential that it be developed and referred to the CAP for input before the consultancy can be put to tender. The Terms of Reference was discussed in detail by the CAP at its first meeting on 27 October.

Panel members made a number of comments on the Terms of Reference, and agreed that the Terms of Reference should be amended and recirculated for consideration. DIER is currently in the process of revising the Terms of Reference.

c. The date that the development of the business case study started.

While DIER commenced preparatory work for the Business Case and the processes supporting it in July 2010, the development of the Business Case itself did not begin formally until the first meeting of the CAP (when a Terms of Reference was considered). In preparation for this meeting, DIER prepared a draft Terms of Reference and distributed this to CAP members on 15 October.

d. Expected date of completion of the business case study.

The completion date for the Business Case was discussed by the CAP. The specific requirements of the State Government procurement process, the period of time likely to be required by the successful consultant to undertake the project and the potential impact on timelines from consultation with key stakeholders over the course of preparing the Business Case were all discussed.

A tentative target date of 30 June 2011 was identified by the CAP, and DIER has agreed to prepare a more detailed project timeline for the CAP's consideration, reflecting the discussions of the CAP.

Information that has been prepared for the Minister relating to the development of:

- (i) the business case study into the Northern Suburbs Light Rail Project; and**
- (ii) a Community Advisory Panel to be set-up to help develop the Northern Suburbs Light Rail businesses case study.**

All relevant information has been identified and released in full.

I have arranged for copies of the accepted Minutes of the meeting of 27 October 2010, and the confirmed Terms of Reference for the Business Case, to be provided to you following the next meeting of the Community Advisory Panel on 17 November 2010.

If you require any further information please feel free to email me at rti@dier.tas.gov.au.

I trust this satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely



Sonya de Lacey
RTI Officer

9 November 2010