New passenger rail in Western Sydney will mean more than just connecting to the airport. It will shape and support the future growth and development of the Western Parkland City. A rail link will improve liveability, with well-connected centres offering good access to employment and health and education services.

The Australian and NSW governments have undertaken a joint Scoping Study to identify a long-term Preferred Network that sets out a vision for passenger rail to service both Western Sydney and Western Sydney Airport.

About the Preferred Network
The Scoping Study outlines a Preferred Network to meet the needs of Western Sydney residents and support future growth of the region over the next 40 years. The Preferred Network outlines the development of a series of rail projects that would create new links within Western Sydney and connect with Western Sydney Airport and other parts of the existing rail network.

The Preferred Network addresses congestion in the Greater Sydney rail network and growing demand for services between Western Sydney and the Sydney CBD, helping Western Sydney become a 30-minute city.

Seeking the community’s views
The consultation process for the Scoping Study sought comments and ideas from Western Sydney residents, local councils, representative groups and industry. The feedback was incorporated into the development of the Preferred Network.

Residents made clear that congestion aboard train services, particularly on west-east services, was a concern and that adding extra capacity between Western Sydney and the Sydney CBD should be a priority. This is now being considered in planning for Sydney Metro West. The community recommended more direct connections to destinations around Sydney, linking Sydney’s north-west with its south-west, the Western Sydney Airport precinct to Leppington, and from the airport to Parramatta.
### Elements of the Preferred Network

#### Rail Links Connecting Western Sydney and the Airport

**North-South Link via Western Sydney Airport**
- Provides significant city-shaping benefits by connecting new growth, education and employment areas
- Connects Schofields in the north to Macarthur in the south via an interchange at the Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis, Western Sydney Airport and an interchange at St Marys. The Link could be built in stages
- Enhances and adds much-needed cross-regional rail capacity by completing a missing transport link
- Improves access to jobs closer to home

**East-West Link via Western Sydney Airport**
- Establishes a connection between the ‘three cities’ from the Eastern Harbour City, through the Central River City to the Western Parkland City around Western Sydney Airport
- Connects an interchange to the south of the airport within the Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis with Western Sydney Airport and Parramatta
- Could form a direct link between the ‘three cities’ as an extension of Sydney Metro West

#### Rail Links Connecting to Greater Sydney

**Sydney Metro West from Greater Parramatta to the Eastern Harbour City (in planning)**
- Provides a new, turn-up-and-go metro rail service that would support Greater Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, the Bays Precinct and the Eastern Harbour City
- Relieves pressure on the T1 Western Line by creating a new service separate from the network
- Supports productivity, housing, liveability, urban renewal and reduces travel times

**South West Link Extension from Leppington**
- Connects Leppington with a future interchange to the south of the airport
- Supports growth in Sydney’s south-west by connecting to the new North-South Link
- Allows access to the airport with an interchange to the North-South Link or East-West Link

**Extending the Sydney Metro Northwest from Cudgegong Road to Schofields**
- Connects Western Sydney, including the airport and surrounds, to Sydney’s north-west

**Upgrades to the T1 North Shore, Northern and Western Line to Increase Capacity**
- Equip the lines with automated systems through a series of upgrades, enabling less-crowded and more reliable services
- Increases the number of services possible on the line by approximately 20 per cent, creating capacity for an additional 4,000-5,000 passengers every hour per line

**Upgrades to the T8 Airport and South Line to Increase Capacity from the South-West**
- Creates a more frequent service for passengers between Revesby and the Harbour CBD, including Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport and growing areas around Mascot and Green Square

**Extending the Sydney Metro City & Southwest from Bankstown to Liverpool**
- Reduces congestion on existing lines from the Liverpool region
- Supports urban development between Liverpool and Bankstown by providing more services to residents
PREFERRED NETWORK FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

Rail links connecting Western Sydney and the airport
1. North-South Link via Western Sydney Airport
2. East-West Link via Western Sydney Airport

Rail links supporting growth and the airport
3. Sydney Metro West (detailed planning has commenced)
4. South West Link from Leppington to the Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
5. Extending the Sydney Metro Northwest from Cudgegong Road to Schofields

Rail links connecting to Greater Sydney
A. Upgrades to the T1 North Shore, Northern & Western Line to increase capacity
B. Upgrades to the T8 Airport & South Line to increase capacity
C. Extending the Sydney Metro City & Southwest from Bankstown to Liverpool

Key existing or future transport interchange
Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan major road projects
Growth areas in Western Sydney
Growth areas for investigation

[Map showing rail links and transport interchanges in Western Sydney]
THE COSTS OF RAIL

Building new railways requires significant funding investment. There are substantial costs associated with engineering works and purchasing new, modern trains. There will also be the need for land purchases or expensive tunnelling works so that new train lines can be built to serve communities in established suburbs.

New rail infrastructure is already on the way in Sydney with the Sydney Metro Northwest and City & Southwest projects costing $8.3 billion and $12.5 billion respectively.

The Scoping Study identifies two preferred direct rail links to Western Sydney Airport:

- A North-South Link
  $15-20 billion (2017 dollars)
- An East-West Link from Parramatta
  $12-15 billion (2017 dollars)

Western Sydney Airport and the region’s growing population

The Western Sydney region is currently home to two million people, and will welcome another one million people over the next 20 years. This growing population requires efficient transport services to improve access to jobs that are closer to home, as well as health, education and recreation services.

The airport is set to open in 2026 as a full-service airport catering for domestic, international and freight services. The airport is expected to initially serve around five million passengers a year when it opens, growing to 10 million passengers a year five years after opening.

The Australian Government is investing up to $5.3 billion to deliver the airport through the Government-owned company, WSA Co.

More information about Western Sydney Airport is available at westernsydneyairport.gov.au.

Western Sydney City Deal

The Western Sydney City Deal is a new approach to planning in the region. The City Deal has been developed in consultation with the Australian and NSW governments and local councils in Western Sydney and aims to transform the region through investment and planning reform, improving access to employment and housing and health, education and liveability outcomes in Western Sydney.

Future Transport 2056 and Greater Sydney Region Plan

The joint Scoping Study aligns with two important strategic documents that will define the future of Sydney and NSW, as well as plans for Western Sydney Airport. The Future Transport 2056 strategy will set the 40-year vision to guide transport investment. The Greater Sydney Regional Plan supports the vision for a metropolis of three cities that will rebalance growth and deliver benefits to residents across Greater Sydney.

Connecting Western Sydney Airport to Sydney’s road network

The Australian and NSW governments realise that efficient road transport to Western Sydney Airport will be essential from the day it opens. They are partnering to deliver the $3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, which includes upgrades to The Northern Road and Bringelly Road, as well as the new M12 Motorway to link the airport to Sydney’s motorway network.

This 10-year investment will relieve pressure on existing roads and cut travel times, easing congestion and providing first-class road connections to Western Sydney Airport and across the Western Sydney region.