

Thursday 26 July 2018

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COHESION NEEDED ON BANKSTOWN METRO**

The South West Bankstown Chamber of Commerce (SWBCC) has called on all levels of government to work together on the Bankstown Metro project, a project it considers a significant city-scaping project with the potential to greatly enhance economic and employment growth in the region.

“Bankstown Metro is an opportunity that cannot be underestimated, and is too important for either side to play politics with” says Wally Mehanna, CEO of the SWBCC. “Infrastructure is vital to cater for South West Sydney’s already-booming population, and Bankstown Metro will be a key pillar of that infrastructure delivery.”

Whilst Bankstown possesses an existing rail line, it has inhibited the growth of the CBD due to the lack of future-proofing in its design in that it cuts the town in half.

“The town has been divided for so long, that’s why it’s so important we get it right this time. We are very supportive of the NSW Government finally acknowledging Bankstown as an emerging growth centre with the planned upgrade.”

“Whilst the SWBCC does not support Council exploring legal action to effectively halt the project, they do agree that there are still some unresolved issues.”

“From a State level, we see one party committed to the project, and one party wanting to scrap it. We recognise why Council is hesitant to support the project in its current form in that the current plans don’t deliver all they could for the community. Despite this instead of opposing the project we encourage them to work with the State Government on behalf of all the residents for Bankstown, as the alternative is so much more bleak.”

“Through collaboration we believe Council has the power to convince them to utilise this unprecedented opportunity to ‘unlock’ Bankstown and bring together the fragmented CBD to fully deliver this ‘defining city building opportunity’.”

“We strongly believe that politics needs to be put aside, and Council needs to work on behalf of the residents rather than their respective parties to deliver for the people of Bankstown, and greater Sydney.”

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