



## MAX Light Rail Project Deferred

The MAX Light Rail system has the potential to be a transformational project that genuinely provides relief to Perth's growing traffic congestion crisis while also offering potential for integrated and responsive development along the route, in turn providing valuable urban regeneration in the northern suburbs.

The Committee for Perth began talking about light rail long before the conversation was tabled more broadly across Perth because we believe that a long term, integrated public transport network that includes all modes of transport is the only way to ensure efficient movement throughout the region.

In 2010 we established an alliance group of key stakeholders to drive the need for light rail to government resulting in the provision for integrated light rail in the government's Draft 20 Year Public Transport Plan for Perth 2031.

We also undertook extensive international research into both existing and planned light rail systems and have produced a number of discussion papers on this issue. We also remained committed to informing the conversation around light rail and have held both member only and public events on this topic.

You can read a full account of our advocacy in this area in our [Road to Light Rail timeline](#).

Without this light rail network WA's car ownership, which is already extremely high, will continue to grow. We currently own 2 million vehicles which equates to more vehicles on the road than residents over 18. If the current rate of growth continues and the population grows to 5 million, by 2050 we will have 3 million cars on our roads. This will be 15% more cars than in Greater London today yet we will have just 50% of the population.

While the State Government remains committed to delivering the project in full, with procurement commencing from mid 2017, construction commencing in 2019 and first services running by late 2022, the Committee is disappointed in its deferral and will continue to advocate for realisation of this network.

Integral to this advocacy are a series of events and meetings that we are staging with Lyle Bicknell in March, including a Perth in Focus event on Thursday 13 March, tickets for which will be available very soon. We are confident that Lyle can contribute greatly to positive conversation about the importance of light rail for Perth and will assist in demonstrating that, with the trends of urban renewal that often accompany introduction of light rail systems, it is so much more than simply a transportation system.

