

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM TramForward

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TramForward welcomes the bold decision to introduce a light rail system to transform Perth Western Australia

A new light rail network linking Perth's inner northern suburbs and the CBD is a "bold" project that will transform transport in the city, according to the state government.

The announcement came after Councillor Marion Fulker of Perth City Council visited the United Kingdom tram systems of Nottingham, Sheffield, Blackpool and Manchester as a guest of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group. Ms Fulker was impressed by the scale of the development of these systems and was able to engage with key figures in the growing UK light rail and tram industry.

The price tag for the 22 kilometre line, nicknamed MAX (Metropolitan Area Express), is above 1 billion Australian dollars. Construction of the initial line is due to begin in 2016 and take two years to complete. It is expected to carry 35,000 passengers per day by 2031.

Light rail is considered by many as a crucial part of an overall transport plan to cope with Perth's rapidly growing population. Public transport patronage is predicted to double by 2031.

State Premier Colin Barnett said the "bold" plan was "a major step forward" for public transport in Perth. "This is an absolute transformation of public transport in Perth," he said. Transport Minister Troy Buswell said the light rail system would bring about significant changes to land use along that transport corridor and inject "a real dynamic" into the city. MAX would provide public transport in areas that were unable to meet current and future demand. "Light rail has been assessed as the most suitable option in these areas" Mr Buswell said. "It can move many more people in one lane than any number of buses and cars."

There are no plans, as yet for an integrated transport system to reduce congestion and pollution in Perth, Scotland

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.
2. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs under 12p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolsley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRTA receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport sites.
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