



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 7 May 2012

### **FEDERAL LABOR TURNS ITS BACK ON NSW: BUSES FOR NORTH WEST AND TOLL FOR PACIFIC HWY**

The Federal Labor Government continues to deny the people of NSW vital funding needed for the State's infrastructure, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

In its latest rebuff, Anthony Albanese's Infrastructure Australia (IA) has described the North West Rail Link as not the highest priority and suggested it be scrapped in favour of more buses.

In its response to Infrastructure NSW's submission for funding support, IA also said the Pacific Highway should be a toll road.

The Federal Government has also broken a commitment for an 80:20 funding split on the Pacific Highway upgrade.

Mr O'Farrell said the North West Rail Link remains the priority for the NSW Government – with or without federal funding.

"Anyone who lives in Sydney's fast growing North West knows what a short-sighted idea it is to suggest buses should replace the rail link," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The idea of putting more buses onto an already crowded road system just beggars belief.

"This is another betrayal of Western Sydney from the Labor Party. State Labor failed to deliver the rail link after years of broken promises – and now Federal Labor washes its hands of the region.

"Despite Mr Albanese coming from NSW, he and his Federal colleagues have turned their backs on our State."

NSW has received \$72 less per person (\$287) from the IA than the rest of the nation (\$359). If funding was calculated on a per capita basis, NSW should have received an additional \$500 million.

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian said the NSW Government was committed to building the North West Rail Link – with or without Federal support.

“Instead of funding the rail infrastructure Western Sydney voted for, the Federal Government is telling them to catch a bus and put up with the already congested roads,” she said.

“Federal Labor is repeating the transport failures of its discredited NSW colleagues who refused to fund new lines in Western Sydney.

“Despite promising billions for Western Sydney rail projects the Federal Labor Government hasn’t delivered NSW a cent.

“The Federal Government must stop playing politics and fund the North West Rail Link to ease traffic congestion and get Sydney moving again.”

Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay said Infrastructure Australia continues to push for a toll on the Pacific Highway to help fund the duplication.

“This is another insult to the people of NSW from Anthony Albanese,” Mr Gay said.

“Over the weekend Mr Albanese confirmed he was ripping out \$2.31 billion in funding by walking away from an agreed 80:20 split on Pacific Highway funding,” Mr Gay said.

“The Federal Government will do anything to balance its budget and that includes ripping off the people of NSW and putting Julia Gillard’s own 2016 deadline for completion of the duplication at risk.

“Mr Albanese signed off on an 83:17 funding split for new Pacific Highway funding in 2009 and in the last state budget the NSW Government allocated an additional \$468 million to the upgrade – establishing a firm 80:20 split.

“Mr Albanese’s announcement over the weekend is a clear breach of that agreement.

“He is playing politics with people’s lives on one of the nation’s most deadly roads,” Mr Gay said.

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