

the**lab**

Culture Pop

Why the Sydney Metro matters

How Australia's largest public transport project could be the key to unlocking the city's cultural vibrancy



Last week James Thorpe laid out his vision for how Sydney can get its swagger back. As CEO of Odd Culture Group, he's certainly got some clout on the matter..

James Thorpe: "Now that the work of undoing the lockout laws is done, how does Sydney create true vibrancy?"



But amongst the plethora of excellent observations, we believe he missed out on a vital part of restoring Sydney's vibe..

The Metro



**Saviour of Sydney's
Public Transport**

Momentous given Sydney's chequered public transport past

Sydney has a regrettable history of torpedoing projects with the potential of immense wider public good for short sighted self-interest.

We torched our famed tram network and opposed building a train station at Bondi Beach to, among other reasons, 'keep the rest of Sydney out'...charming.

**Bondi Beach almost had a train station,
but fear got in the way**

ABC NEWS

**Erased from history: how Sydney
destroyed its trams for love of the car**

The
Guardian

Public transport is an investment in social cohesion, mobility and vibrancy

“Public transport is one of the most essential solutions for supporting inclusive mobility in urban life.

The future of sustainable and inclusive cities relies on having high-quality, well-managed public transport combined with more walking, cycling, and dense planning strategies.”

(MOBILIZE Learning Lab)

And so, this progress
needs to be protected

“If we’re serious about maintaining the momentum, we need to commit to delivering this year on year, for the foreseeable future.”

“When you remember this is going to change our city for the next 100 years, dollar-for-dollar, it’s an absolute bargain.”

**Eamon Waterford
CEO Committee for Sydney**

The London Underground isn't perfect, but it plays a vital role in preserving the city's cultural vibrancy.

Ensuring that people from all corners of the diverse metropolis can be swiftly transported across the city helps prevent cultural calcification and social homogenisation



Sydney's lack of connectivity hinders its efforts to build social cohesion

Sydney is a wonderful place bursting with diversity of both landscape and culture.

Unfortunately, its historically limited public transport options has meant many rarely venture beyond their own local bubbles.

Transport inequity challenges southwest Sydney residents as young people worry about car dependence

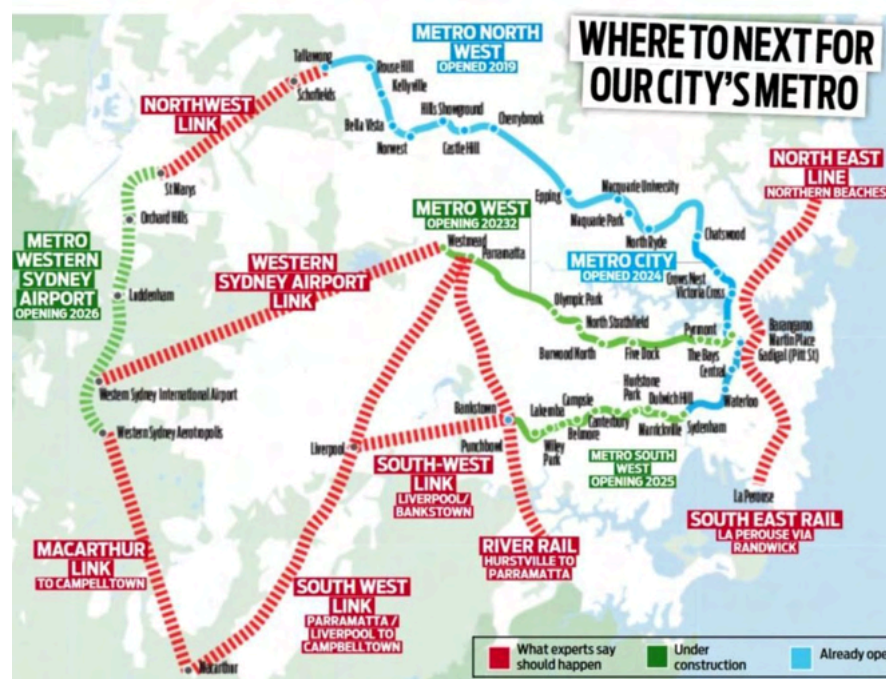
ABC NEWS

Public transport black holes: Sydney suburbs with horror commutes

The Daily Telegraph

The Metro is not a panacea to our public transport issues, but it's a start.

It could be a vital catalyst to help finally unite Sydney's patchwork quilt of villages into a more cohesive city.



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