

## **Barton Deakin Brief: New South Wales Fast Rail Network Strategy**

**4 December 2018**

The NSW Government has released more detail on its plan to develop a fast rail network across NSW. Beginning work in its next term of government, the four potential corridors of the network will link regional centres to each other and Sydney, aiming to provide more choice for people to live and work in regional NSW.

To execute this, the Government has appointed Professor Andrew McNaughton to lead an expert panel on how the government should best deliver a fast rail network to connect the state. This announcement fulfils the desire outlined in the government's [A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW](#) to improve regional connectivity.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the core components of the proposed Fast Rail Network Strategy.

### **Fast Rail Network Strategy**

---

As part of the vision for regional NSW for the next 20 years and beyond, the strategic planning and delivery of faster rail connections within regional NSW will increase the number of commuters, connect more people with regional NSW, draw in more investment, generate job opportunities, attract skilled workers and alleviate growth pressures in Sydney.

Professor Andrew McNaughton, an industry expert with more than 45 years' experience working on rail infrastructure projects, particularly the UK's HS2, has been appointed to lead the panel responsible for considering the possible network and advise on staging and delivery options.





The identified potential routes take the form of a Northern Corridor stretching from Sydney to Port Macquarie; Western Corridor from Sydney to Orange/Parkes; Southern Inland Corridor from Sydney to Canberra; and a Southern Coastal Corridor from Sydney to Nowra.

Below are the current and approximated faster rail and high-speed rail travel times departing from Sydney:

Journey	Current rail time	Faster rail <200km/h	High-speed rail >250km/h
Sydney to Canberra	4:07 hours	3:00 hours	1:00 hours
Sydney to Goulburn	2:31 hours	1:45 hours	0:30 hours
Sydney to Newcastle	2:35 hours	2:00 hours	0:45 hours
Sydney to Gosford	1:19 hours	1:00 hours	0:30 hours
Sydney to Wollongong	1:25 hours	1:00 hours	0:30 hours
Sydney to Nowra	2:39 hours	2:00 hours	0:45 hours

### Short to Medium-Term

As part of their short to medium-term focus, the Government in October released a [proposal fact sheet](#) detailing the possible improvements between Sydney and Newcastle that would facilitate faster passenger rail services. They aim to achieve this by:

- Reducing track curvature, deviations and realignments;
- Removal of level crossings;
- Junction rearrangement; and
- Better segregation between passenger and freight services.

### Medium to Long-Term

In the medium to long-term, the Government aims to build a new dedicated and purpose-built line for a high-speed rail network capable of speeds over 250 km/h. The new network would be delivered in stages.

### Further Information

---

For the details on the NSW Fast Rail Network Strategy, click [here](#).

Find out more about the vision for the next 40 years of transport in NSW [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Anthony Benschel](#) on +61 438 439 431 or [Keiran Humpherson](#) on +61 2 9191 7888.

To stay up to date with the affairs of Coalition Governments and Oppositions around Australia, you can follow Barton Deakin on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). For more information on Barton Deakin please visit our [website](#).