

22 February 1974.

My dear Premier,

From as far back as 1907 each mainland State Government has from time to time consented to the Commonwealth Government constructing or extending railways in its State; these railways have always been country lines and have usually involved State expenditure. Now my Government seeks your Government's consent to construct a railway in the metropolitan area; the railway will be constructed and operated without cost to your Government.

The railway system we seek to construct will radiate from Parramatta to Hoxton Park, Castle Hill and through Carlingford to Epping. Both your advisers and ours have conducted studies which have demonstrated the feasibility of the system. Such a distinct system will allow the introduction of the best contemporary signalling practices and carriage sets. We would prefer your Government to staff the new railway system, although we would meet any losses on it.

My Government wishes to provide funds in the Budget next August for the commencement of construction and the ordering of rolling stock and equipment. We therefore wish our officials or ministers to confer with yours as soon as possible. Our relevant departments are Treasury, Transport and Urban and Regional Development. Any further studies required can be supported through the Western Area Improvement Program for which provision was made in the Budget last August.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) E. G. WHITLAM

E. G. WHITLAM

The Hon. Sir Robert Askin,
K.C.M.G., M.L.A.,
Premier of New South Wales,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000