



**The Hon. David Elliott MP**

Minister for Transport  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Western Sydney

Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
NSW Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Minnican

Please find attached the NSW Government response to Recommendation 2 from the Public Accounts Committee - Examination of selected Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports - August 2019 - June 2020.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. David Elliott MP**

Minister for Transport  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Western Sydney



# **NSW Government response**

Examination of selected Auditor-General's  
Performance Audit Reports August 2019 - June  
2020.

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## Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Transport for New South Wales provides an updated report to the Committee in July 2022, detailing improvements to journey times, final costs and benefits realised for the CBD and South East Light Rail project.

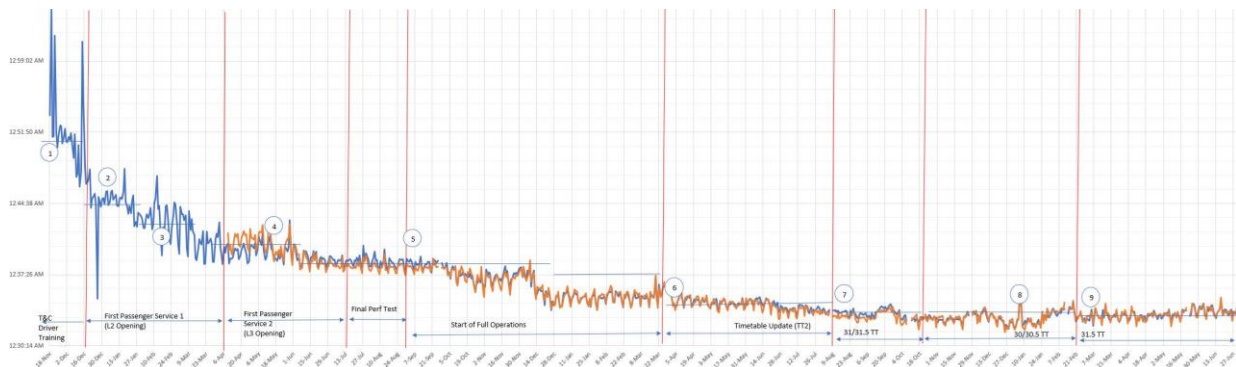
### NSW Government response

#### Supported

##### Improvements to journey times

The average journey time for the CBD and South East Light Rail for June 2022 was 33.5 minutes. This is slightly slower than the 32.75 minutes previously reported. This decrease is attributed to dwell time increases at platforms resulting from recent patronage increases to record levels and temporary speed restrictions, due to changes in the operating environment or minor faults.

The below graph indicates the improvements in average journey time since this light rail service's commencement in December 2019 from 50 minutes to the current 33.5 minutes.



##### Final costs

Final project costs will be determined following completion of signalling, operations control centre modifications, noise and vibration requirements. There are also mediation and legal actions to be finalised. It is anticipated all payments and costs will be finalised by quarter four.

##### Benefits realised

Accurate operational costs for the first year of operations are not available. Transport for NSW and Infrastructure NSW agreed to delay updating project benefits to Q4 2022. This is due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the restrictions on travel put in place under the Public Health Orders in 2021. The analysis has been subject to variability in patronage and economic activity throughout the COVID-19 lockdown period in 2021. The wider economic benefits will become evident only over an extended timeframe.

In Q4 2022, the benefits realisation report will include customer, operating, environmental, health and wider economic benefits.