

17 September 2020

Mr Stephen Stead  
The Western Link

Via email: [stephen.stead@vitl.org.au](mailto:stephen.stead@vitl.org.au)

Dear Mr Stead,

**RE: The Western Link Initiative**

I am writing to express my support for the initiatives of The Western Link.

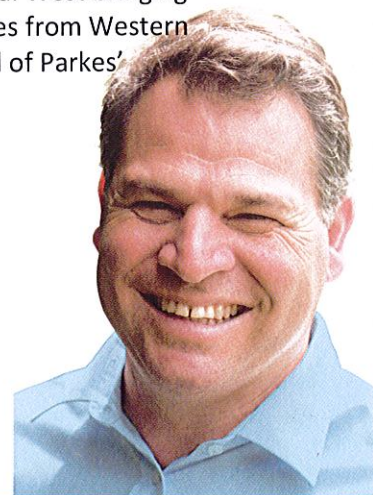
The Western Link is proposed as a quicker, safer, more reliable route connecting Western Sydney and Central Western NSW. The Western Link proposal aligns with the Government's NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint aspirations for "Vibrant, Well Connected Cities" and "Productive, Vibrant Regions".

I support a faster, safer, and more reliable transport connection between Western Sydney and Central Western NSW, having pressured the Liberal Nation coalition Government to deliver on the pre-election promise of an expressway through the Blue Mountains by former Roads Minister, Duncan Gay MLC. I publically supported such a nation building project, which is supported in speeches I've delivered in the NSW Legislative Assembly.

An upgrade will reduce congestion and provide safer, more efficient, and reliable journeys across the Blue Mountains.

The Western Link has foreseeable benefits for both Western Sydney and The Central West regions. High-speed transport will increase the connectivity, productivity, economic and social benefits as seen in the growth of regions such as Wollongong, Newcastle, Central Coast, and the Hunter – all regions served by 100km/hr Highways and efficient rail transport.

The Central West has fantastic industrial manufacturers and industries that could further develop with efficient Links from the Central West and Western Sydney, it will also allow decentralisation for manufacturers, small businesses, families and increase jobs and tourism in the Central West bringing economic benefits in the region. Faster, safer and more efficient road and rail linkages from Western Sydney with the Central West are increasingly important to fully realise the potential of Parkes' Inland Rail Freight terminal and National Logistics Hub.

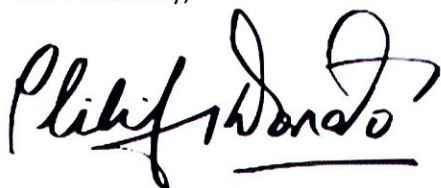


Safe and efficient road connections combined with improved rail transport between Australia's third biggest economy, Western Sydney and NSW third biggest economy, Western NSW, will be the catalyst for major development of the two areas and provide opportunities, jobs, equality to the people of these regions.

I support The Western Link proposal and any request for funding to ensure the infrastructure project is delivered.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Donato". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Philip Donato MP**  
**Member for Orange**