

MEDIA RELEASE  
"Transport Policies Wrong Way Up Down Under",  
warns visiting British expert  
25 November 1996

A visiting British transport expert has warned that current proposals to build the Eastern Distributor, M5 East and Western Sydney Orbital are leading Sydney in the wrong direction and will not solve traffic congestion problems but will make them worse.

Tim Pharoah is Reader in Transport and Urban Planning at Southbank University, London. He is in Australia on a Visiting Fellowship from the Vice Chancellors Committee to travel around Australia offering insights into British transport policy and lessons it offers for Australian policy.

From what he has seen so far in Sydney Mr Pharoah has concluded that "The planning of transport in Sydney is very old fashioned - it is easily 25 years behind world's best practice." "The Environmental Impact Statement for the Eastern-Distributor, for example, comes across as a very primitive document. It seems to be trying to prove that catering for the car actually works!"

"They haven't learnt the lesson that you can't build your way out of traffic congestion!" "Building the Eastern Distributor in Sydney will head the city in the wrong direction and lead inevitably to increasing traffic congestion, declining air quality and as a result an increasingly uncompetitive economy.

"Instead of building disastrous roads you need to traffic calm existing congested roads; extend and improve public transport; bring services such as shops, childcare and recreational facilities closer together; and dramatically improve the situation for pedestrians and cyclists."

Mr Pharoah is in Sydney to brief government Transport and Planning Departments and academics and the public about how Britain has succeeded in halting its damaging urban road building programme and begun planning for more sustainable cities.

He will be holding a public lecture at Parliament House, Macquarie Street at 6.00pm on Tuesday 26 November. For More information about the lecture call 9247 4080.