

September 12, 2013

**Comment from Australia on approval by mail: Viet Nam - Sustainable Urban Transport for Ho Chi Minh City Mass Rapid Transit Line 2 Project**

Dear Patricia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project plan. Thank you to the Government of Vietnam and ADB for their work in preparing this plan.

We note the MRT2 project aims to supplement the rail infrastructure with accessibility measures and information services. These “softer” infrastructure measures play an important role in enabling broad public take-up of the substantial “backbone” infrastructure of the rail line itself, allowing the project package as a whole to achieve its full transformational potential. In this regard, we commend the potential benefits to social and economic development aspects inherent to this project, such as inclusion, direct and indirect employment and gender.

We do also offer the following comments for response:

1. I note the identification of the challenges of rolling out “one-off designs” for urban rail systems, and how this is not necessarily conducive to replication and scale-up. However, given the implications of replication and scale-up on achieving lower costs of abatement, further consideration should be given to how this project can implement measurable actions to encourage replication and scale up, for example, develop industry supply chains and build sectoral skills and expertise.
2. How will access infrastructure and information systems be maintained to ensure long-term sustainability of this infrastructure? How will this be funded into the future?
3. Given the construction of access measures may require some land acquisition, are there any foreseeable contentions with land acquisition that could impact implementation potential?
4. Lastly, I might have missed this detail somewhere and I’m fine if it is considered out of the scope of this project plan, but how will the price of fares/tickets be determined? Given the wide use of personal transport, fares would have to be priced competitively to ensure public affordability and appeal. Has an assessment been conducted to determine the price point that would incentivise a shift in behaviour? How will pricing be regulated into the future?

Best regards

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**John Anakotta**

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