

Walt Secord MLC

Shadow Treasurer
Shadow Minister for the Arts



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SECORD ON SYDNEY MODERN PROJECT QUESTIONS

Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for the Arts Walt Secord has called on the Berejiklian Government to reveal the current cost of the Sydney Modern Project – saying there are serious questions including concerns about possible major cost blow-outs and whether it will make its 2021 completion date.

It must also explain the status of the current tender process and the status of Lendlease in the project.

“Another day, another cost blow-out,” Mr Secord said.

“Unfortunately, the Berejiklian Government has a dreadful record on managing infrastructure projects. It comes off the back of the Sydney Light Rail, the Sydney football stadium fiasco and the Powerhouse Museum move.

“There is a cloak of secrecy around the Sydney Modern project. There are major concerns in the arts community about the lack of transparency surrounding the actual cost of the Sydney Modern Project.

“The Berejiklian Government has the reverse Midas touch. Every project that it manages bad and it goes into cost overruns. We have been told that the Sydney Modern Project is running into the tens of millions of dollars over budget.

“There are also serious questions that need to be answered by the Berejiklian Government and the NSW Arts Minister Don Harwin, who has made this his signature project.

“In November 2018, the Arts Minister Don Harwin boasted that he had secured \$100 million from private donors and another \$244 million from NSW taxpayers for the project.”

The serious questions include:

- What is the current cost of the project?
- Will the project meet its original timetable of 2021? and
- Has there been a change to the scope of works?

Mr Secord said any additional funds will likely come from the NSW taxpayers and other arts programs as the Arts Minister Don Harwin has a track record of diverting funding from small fledging arts groups to his own pet projects.