Establishing a long-term vision is the right thing to do. Fast rail networks are complex. They take time to be delivered. Preparing a strategy allows NSW to begin work towards that vision.

— Professor Andrew McNaughton

Professor Andrew McNaughton has been appointed as the Fast Rail Panel Chair. Professor McNaughton has more than 45 years’ experience working on rail infrastructure projects. He is currently the Strategic Adviser to the UK’s High Speed 2 (HS2) project and Chair of the International Railway Union World InterCity and High Speed Forum. Professor McNaughton previously served as Technical Director at HS2 from its inception in 2009, following eight years as Chief Engineer of the British rail network.

Professor McNaughton has also published numerous journal articles and publications on passenger and freight rail transport strategy, future technologies, high-speed rail and alignment of transport, land-use planning and economic regeneration.

What can we learn from the UK?

High Speed 2 is a new high-speed rail network being built in the UK. The first phase between London and Birmingham will be completed in 2026. High Speed 2 promises to be a catalyst for economic growth. Faster and easier travel between Britain’s economic hubs in the north and south will better connect industries and people.

Companies will no longer need to be located in London once the cities of the Midlands and North of England are within an hour by fast, frequent and reliable train services.

The design is putting people first - giving passengers, workers and communities more choice, flexibility, reliability, comfort and accessibility. Community engagement has been a key part of designing better networks and services.

“Andrew McNaughton is rightly seen as the guiding mind for the UK’s new national high-speed spine. From the earliest concept to successful legislation and commencement, it has been his vision.”

Sir David Higgins, former Chairman, HS2; former Chief Executive, London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority

“Andrew McNaughton led the design and preparation of the entire HS2 route from London to Birmingham and Manchester, which is now being built. I have never encountered anyone more expert, and with better judgement, on high-speed rail.”

Lord Andrew Adonis, former Chair, UK National Infrastructure Commission; former UK Minister for Transport