

Sydney's future is 'doing a Bradfield'

Paul Nicolaou



Politics is the art of the possible that combines big dreams, big thinking and eye-on-the-prize leadership.

Sydney is seeing the result of all three with the opening of the stunning \$21 billion Sydney Metro extension.

And, with the prospect of more to come, to make Sydney a Metro-connected city.

I have no doubt that our wonderful city is basking in the Metro opening day glow due in no small part to The Daily Telegraph and its annual Bradfield Oration.

Invoking the name of Sydney's master dreamer, city conceiver and futurist John Bradfield is the key.

After this week's Metro opening, "doing a Bradfield" will be part of our city's lexicon for doing the big things that will

make Sydney a gilt-edged world city.

Making the Bradfield connection has dared our modern-day generation of politicians to think big.

It is there to see in the grandeur of the new Metro stations from Chatswood to Sydenham, right through the beating heart of the city.

Why else do we have the equivalent of railway cathedrals built for this century and for the next?

Would our infrastructure designers have dared to build on such a grand scale without the Bradfield legacy and its invocation to go big?

I joined thousands of other Sydneysiders riding the Metro on its first day of operation.

It was awe inspiring and fantastic for our city and for revitalising the CBD.

On the same day that Sydney was celebrating its Metro opening, Melbourne was agonising over massive cost blowouts and delays to its new airport rail link.

What a tale of two cities and polar opposites!

One celebrating, the other wringing their hands.

Sydney, let's never stop "doing a Bradfield" when it comes to big thinking and keep building wonderful city-shaping infrastructure.

It's fitting that the Metro opening had a bipartisan air.

A project conceived by the previous government and completed by the new.

We need our political leaders to be visionaries with sleeves rolled up and building.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney