Change of tack for metro station development on Sydney's north shore

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The NSW government has split plans to construct a new metro train station on Sydney's north shore from the development of towers above it, in the wake of widespread opposition from locals.

The government ditched a tender for an "integrated station development" at Crows Nest last year and has since opted for a "construct-only package" for the new train station, leaving the scale of the buildings set to emerge above it still to be finalised.

The rationale for "integrated developments" is that offices, shops and apartments help to subsidise the cost of the train station below, which can run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

An early concept plan of the development above a new metro station at Crows Nest. *CREDIT:TRANSPORT FOR NSW*

The change of tack at Crows Nest comes as a recent report by the NSW Audit Office shows that the state's lead transport agency suffered a $258 million loss on integrated station development agreements for metro lines in Sydney in the year to June.

Transport for NSW declined to reveal how many bids it received last year for the integrated station development at Crows Nest before it scrapped the tender.

It said that separating the construction package at Crows Nest allowed the station to "progress while the NSW government considers community feedback about the development above the station".

But Labor's transport spokesman, Chris Minns, said the suggestion that the procurement package had been separated after "noting community concern seems particularly far-fetched".

"Other suburbs across Sydney have not been so lucky with major developments lumped on their communities after the government unilaterally rezoned the planning over their train lines," he said.

"The government should release the number of parties who were interested [in the integrated station development] rather than hiding by that old chestnut 'commercial-in-confidence'."