

# The Sydney Morning Herald

## More rail only hope

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I hope that the new Cities Minister, Angus Taylor, does not take too much notice of the article by Randal O'Toole of the Washington DC Cato Institute ("A driverless country just around the corner", *Herald*, March 12-13).

O'Toole suggests that because driverless cars will soon be here, they will replace the need for most public transport. "We have a pretty good idea that public transit will at least shrink, so transit agencies should focus on low-cost, flexible bus services and not build expensive and pointless rail lines."

I fail to see how driverless cars will solve Sydney's chronic congestion problems. The only advantage might be that in a crisis situation similar to that which Sydney experienced last Wednesday morning, the cars will not suddenly use the bus and transit lanes, as happened – provided the software is up to date.

Perhaps Tony Abbott was influenced by this American idea of the rugged individual in his car and refused to provide funds for public transport, but more rail lines will be the only hope for Sydney and Melbourne.