

**Submission**

**No 29**

**INQUIRY INTO THE UTILISATION OF RAIL CORRIDORS**

**Name:** Ms Janine Kitson

**Date Received:** 29/02/2012

29 February, 2012

Attention Committee Manager  
To Mr Charles Casuscelli, MP  
Chair  
Legislative Assembly Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Casuscelli

I wish to express my strongest opposition to building over Sydney's railway network.

Sydney is a city with scenically beautiful, heritage railways lines. These need to be protected not destroyed by more high rise development.

It is deeply regrettable that both Labor and Liberal Governments have determinedly pursued controversial urban consolidation strategies for over a decade. Community groups across Sydney have argued that this has effectively destroying many outstanding heritage and environmental values of the city.

Ku-ring-gai, for example, is an area of Sydney that still has rare urban forests along its major transport lines that support high biodiversity. Many argue that removing the rare remnant Blue Gum High Forest along the railway line will seriously reduce Sydney's air quality. The North Shore Line is one of the most intact, scenically attractive railway corridors in Sydney and has already undergone a massive assault of overdevelopment along its railway corridor.

I oppose the privatization agenda that wishes to sell off what is effectively publically owned railway land and its air space for developers' profits. Many communities would see this as just another example of unacceptable government sanctioned overdevelopment.

More development along railway corridors has not reduced car dependency or urban sprawl or carbon emissions.

The current rail network is already at overcapacity to take on increased numbers. This multistorey paradigm has already been rammed through against the wishes of many local councils and communities.

I take objection to a comment made by Mr Nick Griener, inaugural chairman of Infrastructure NSW who was quoted as saying he sees nothing wrong with having development over Gordon railway station ['And now for my next plan' by Jacob Saulwick, *Sydney Morning Herald*, News Review, November 5-6, 2011, page 5]. This is despite the fact that high rise would destroy this State Heritage Listed Station. In 2004 the community rallied to protect this relatively intact Edwardian station from being destroyed by inappropriately placed and designed lifts. One of its significant heritage qualities is its significant view lines and where the natural landscape dominates the built landscape.

Sydney is already overpopulated. The government should be planning for sustainable population limits instead of pursuing unsustainable overdevelopment.

Yours sincerely  
Janine Kitson