

**Supplementary
Submission**

No 15a

INQUIRY INTO THE UTILISATION OF RAIL CORRIDORS

Organisation: Central and North Miranda Precinct Residents Association
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Position: Committee Representative
Date Received: 28/02/2012

Submission re NSW Legislative Assembly
Committee on Transport and Infra Structure
Enquiry into the utilization of rail corridors

The Committee Manager
Committee on Transport and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam

RE Enquiry into the utilization of rail corridors

Submission outline Our submission proposes the utilisation of the rail corridor and adjacent land for off-road cycleway/shared paths to enable all residents to safely access residential, recreational and commercial areas as well as schools and hospitals via walking, cycling or use of a mobility scooter.

It is specifically related to the Cronulla to Sutherland rail corridor and adjacent land. Due to increasing urban development there is a scarcity of open space in the Shire. Plans by professional design company GTA have identified the rail corridor route as one of the few available options. The route can be viewed on the Sutherland Council Web site

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Recreation/Cycling_Walking/Cycling_Network/Sutherland_to_Cronulla_OffRoad_Cycleway_Route_Study

Future urban development along the railway will require increased transport capacity and a cycleway/shared path would perfectly complement rail for short trips.

The Parramatta to Liverpool off road Cycleway is an example of a successful cycleway in another jurisdiction. Completed in 2001 it was successfully built along the rail corridor and adjacent land.

The community has been campaigning for an off-road cyclepath to be built from Cronulla to Sutherland ever since the Cronulla rail duplication project was presented for public consultation...

In 2006 a petition with 3000 plus signatures was presented to the State Government urging it to build an off road cycleway (shared path) connecting Sutherland to Cronulla within the railway easement

The requirements for the cycleway have now been before government for 6 years. Numerous studies for the cycleway have been completed, reports presented and extensive correspondence on its advantages presented.

The most comprehensive plan so far was funded by the previous labour government who allocated \$100,000 for the development of options for safe and practical off road cycleway facilities to link important local infrastructure in the Shire. The Sutherland Shire council, the local community and what was then the Roads Traffic Authority (RTA) and Railcorp worked with professional cycle way design company GTA. Three options were developed but the rail corridor option had most community support due to its directness and convenience. As future development along the railway continues and transport capacity increases we believe a pedestrian /cycleway would perfectly complement rail for short trips and reduce the increasingly common but currently unavoidable traffic gridlock

Planning should not just be about zoning and density of housing issues. It should include integral networks of safe off road cycle paths for both pedestrians and cyclists. These planning objectives are particularly important in the Sutherland Shire due to the scarcity of open space and increasing urban density encroaching on what little we have left

Currently there are too many cars and moving from suburb to suburb is frustrating and time consuming so residents need safe options to walk or cycle. Residents of all ages who like to exercise also need safer routes..

The Cronulla rail corridor and adjacent land is an ideal route through the densely populated eastern spine of the Sutherland Shire for both cycling and walking because it is direct and hugs a ridgeline, avoiding hills. The whole community agrees it needs to be both safe and functional. It connects not only to Cronulla's beaches and the National Park but also to half a dozen local shopping centers as well as Westfield at Miranda, schools, the hospital and GyMEA TAFE.

The Sutherland Council has made it clear that it is willing to cooperate in any way it can to coordinate with the State government in developing this cycleway/shared path.

We believe it is essential for cycleway development along the rail corridor and adjacent land to be part of any master plans for the future to meet the needs of Sutherland Shire residents.

Our Current local member Graham Annesley supports it as an important piece of community infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

Diane Hallion

Cycleway/shared path committee representative

Central and North Miranda Precinct's Residents' association.