

**Submission  
No 5**

## **COMMUTER CAR PARKING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Javier Canon

**Date Received:** 10 July 2017

## Commuter Car Parking - submission

That the Committee inquire into and report on commuter car parking in NSW, including:

- a. The effectiveness of current state government policies and programs covering commuter car parking;
- b. Processes for selecting the location of commuter car parks;
- c. The potential for restricted access or user pays commuter car parks;
- d. Consideration of alternative modes of first mile/last mile travel, including point to point transport, active transport and on demand buses; and
- e. Any other related matters.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide a submission about commuter car parking in NSW. I consider this is a critical issue in our state.

During the last few months I have requested information in that regard to several agencies, including Planning NSW, Greater Sydney Commission, LGA in Sydney South West area, etc. Only few agencies have responded, in particular responses from local councils are supportive of the need for additional capacity of car parks in south west train stations, particularly around Badgerys Creek Airport Precinct.

I consider this is a key issue for current and future residents in south west Sydney because:

- Housing development is increasing considerably and that trend is expected to continue in the future in that area.
- Residents living far from the main sources of employment (notably Sydney CBD), have only one real commuting option, which is to catch train daily.
- Commuters living closer to employment areas have other options (eg, bus, ferry, cycle, driving, point to point transport, walking, etc). None of those are real for residents in Sydney south west.
- Many families (including myself) have to drop and collect kids from/to childcare and school every day, which implies the necessity of driving a car and parking it in a train station.
- The train fees we are required to pay should recognise the need to provide enough and adequate parking facilities for community. This is a monopoly and the only option we have is using trains (as opposed to other areas in Sydney region).
- Having the Badgerys Creek Airport under construction requires adequate and enough infrastructure available before it is completed. Car parking at train stations around the Airport precinct is a critical component of such infrastructure.
- The issue (lack of enough car park) have been raised in several occasions and the community is still waiting for real solutions.

Text below outlines current state government policies and programs are not effective in my view, as they are not translated in real solutions to car parking in Sydney South West area at the moment.

## Context and situation

It is well known the population at the western areas of Sydney is growing rapidly.<sup>1</sup> A number of housing developments are under construction or planned to commence civil works **within the next few years, particularly in Sydney's south west district.**<sup>2</sup>

I am aware that planning authorities have stated that the government will “(...) **enable a wide range of commercial activities to take advantage of transport access to Badgerys Creek Airport and its proximity to the airport, Leppington and the population growth of the South West Growth Centre.**”<sup>3</sup>

I note that Badgerys Creek Airport Precinct, Leppington, and other areas in South western areas in Sydney have been identified as **Sydney's grow strategic centres** in the **Plan for Growing Sydney.**<sup>4</sup> I also note that the 20-year vision of the South West District 2036 indicates “(...) **main streets and public areas will be connected by integrated, safe and reliable public transport, roads, cycleways and pedestrian links.**”<sup>5</sup>

Further, one of the priorities for the South West subregion in the *Plan For Growing Sydney* include “improve walking and cycling connections to the new Leppington train station.”<sup>6</sup>

## What do we need and why

A number of current and future residents of Willowdale housing development (including my family and myself) are very concerned about the existing capacity of the parking facilities at the train stations around Willowdale area (ie, Leppington, Edmondson Park and Glenfield).

During 2016, a number of newspapers reported the inadequate capacity of parking spaces at Leppington station.<sup>7</sup> Currently the situation is getting worse and it is only expected to become a bigger issue as more residents move in to this area.

We consider that improving the bus services and bike lanes connecting the new developments with train stations is part of the solution, but additional parking spaces are to be constructed in Leppington, Edmondson Park and Glenfield.

<sup>1</sup> Cobbitty – Leppington was the fastest population growing area in NSW (up to 26%). Regional Population growth, Australia, 2014-15 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3218.0 [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

<sup>2</sup> The draft South West District Plan (section 3.3) states that “The Department of Planning and Environment, with input from the local councils is preparing a land use and infrastructure plan for the area, which has the potential to yield approximately 115,000 dwellings over the long term.” Greater Sydney Commission. [www.greater.sydney](http://www.greater.sydney) consulted in June 2017.

<sup>3</sup> A Plan for Growing Sydney, NSW Government, December 2014, page 40

<sup>4</sup> A Plan for Growing Sydney, NSW Government, December 2014, page 46

<sup>5</sup> Our vision – South West District 2036 <https://www.greater.sydney/digital-district-plan/1041> consulted on June 2017

<sup>6</sup> A Plan for Growing Sydney, NSW Government, December 2014, page 130

<sup>7</sup> For example Sydney Morning Herald, 18 July 2016, Daily Telegraph, 28 July 2016 and Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser, 3 Nov 2016.

Additional parking spots are required as well, as many families with babies and kids will require parking their cars at the train stations, in order to drop and collect them from and to childcares and schools in the area.

The situation is particularly critical for those working in the CBD (such as myself), **compared with residents in areas closer to the city, as we don't have the choice to** catch a bus, drive, catch a ferry, or use point to point alternatives, etc; our only option is catching a train every single working day.

### **Petition**

In light of the above situation and considerations, following items summarise my petitions:

1. Construct enough facilities to allow residents to securely park bikes in Leppington, Edmondson Park and Glenfield train stations.
2. Increase the cars parking capacity at Leppington, Edmondson Park and Glenfield train stations accordingly with projected population in this area of **Sydney's south west** district. I consider that if that implies construct multi storey car parks, civil works should commence immediately.
3. Provide a written schedule of construction of the infrastructure above.

Please provide written response to: [REDACTED]

Cordially:

Javier Canon

Future resident at [REDACTED]