

**Submission
No 41**

**CRITICAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTING THE WESTERN
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND WESTERN SYDNEY
AEROTROPOLIS**

Name: Mr Bruno Lopreiato

Date Received: 10 April 2024

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Assembly Committee
Transport and Infrastructure

Dear Member and Committee,

I am writing to bring to your attention the pressing issue of transport and infrastructure in our community, particularly in light of recent floodwaters that have significantly affected our ability to travel safely and efficiently. The recent flooding has underscored the urgent need for the construction of a new bridge to alleviate the challenges we face during such natural disasters.

The existing infrastructure, namely Blaxland Crossing at Wallacia, has proven inadequate to withstand the impact of severe weather events, resulting in disruptions to essential services and impeding the movement of goods and people. This not only poses risks to public safety but also hampers economic activities in our region. The community of Silverdale has also grown significantly over the past 3 years with the development of Cascades Estate and Mirrigan Estate which has seen double the population growth.

The Silverdale area has also seen major capital investment. There is a large Shopping Centre being built currently with a full line Woolworths store and 26 other specialty stores employing some 400-500 people. Deliveries servicing the Shopping Centre will be greatly impeded with the existing bridge being closed. Also there are future industrial developments within the employment zone which will only increase the number of local residents and workers which need access via the existing bridge.

This is not a one-off occurrence and in fact the existing bridge has been flooded 4 times in the past 2 years. Each time the bridge is closed there are structural concerns and remedial works in order to open the bridge. This is a major concern, the structural integrity and life span of the existing bridge needs to be questioned. The last flood event had a water level 9 metres above the existing bridge level.

It is also very important to understand the local demographic within the area. Silverdale during the last census had a very high proportion of self-employed families. Self-employed businesses accounted for 75% of the working population in Silverdale. This is also compounded by the lack of a high school in the area and the vast majority of children requiring them to go to school in the Penrith area which is not possible when the existing bridge is flooded.

A new bridge is also crucial to ensure resilience against future flood events and to facilitate the uninterrupted flow of traffic, emergency services, and commerce. By investing in robust infrastructure, we can enhance the resilience of our community and promote economic growth and prosperity. The Western Sydney airport is in close proximity to our community, and if further development is planned, the current bridge is not adequate to service our area. There have been a number of major flood events that have seen Blaxland Crossing flood, and the only access out of the area is via Camden. To put this into perspective, a trip from Silverdale to Penrith is 22km (26mins), however if the bridge floods, this trip becomes 76km (74mins). That is over 3 times the distance and time of a direct trip.

I urge you to prioritize the planning and construction of a new bridge that meets modern engineering standards and is resilient to the challenges natural disaster events. Additionally, I encourage you to explore funding opportunities and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to expedite the process and ensure its successful implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt action in addressing our community's transport and infrastructure needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Bruno Lopreiato
Silverdale Shopping Centre