

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Name: Variations to Proforma A

Number received: 29

Additional comments to Proforma A

This impact is not to be undermined, with statistics in mental health rising exponentially over the last ten years. I am also concerned about the total mismanagement of this project; the shortsightedness of our politicians; the huge drain on the public purse from the cost blowouts and the health and safety concerns it poses to the public, residents and visitors alike. I ask that the enquiry identifies all forms of mismanagement and makes recommendations to ensure that this disastrous outcome will not be repeated in the future, anywhere in Australia.

The process so far has been devastating and disruptive. The environmental destruction wrought by it is beyond comprehension, and will never be forgotten or forgiven. The impact on people's amenity has been distressing.

I am concerned about the impact on mature trees as a result of the project. In particular the ANZAC Parade Figs which were planted to commemorate ANZAC soldiers and are/ have been a significant natural asset for this part of Sydney.

I am in full support of the 'Saving Sydney Trees' agenda on these issues.

Businesses in Kensington and elsewhere along the light rail route have closed because of a dramatic drop in turnover due to the mess created by the construction of the light rail. Randwick businesses seemed to have been spared this fate but perhaps the effects have just been slower to materialise. Belmore Road alone has at least nine empty shopfronts now. This is a stretch of only 500 metres. We're told the economy is going well so it would not be unreasonable to assume that businesses are closing because traversing the area is now so tedious and such an unpleasant experience. Traffic has been funnelled into fewer roads, there is less parking and it can take an inordinate amount of time to get from one end of Randwick to another by car. Those travelling by public transport are now sent hither and yon in search of the right bus stop. With so many businesses having disappeared from Randwick the remaining businesses are at risk of failure. There are fewer reasons to visit Randwick now and if alternative, accessible locations exist for performing the same activities then why would anyone bother coming to Randwick?

1. the impact on trees lost in Randwick council and along ANZAC PARADE and ALISON ROAD,
 2. the very poor design of the tracks, criss crossing the road in a number of places when it could just run down one side of Anzac parade (or in the middle) and one side of alison road (or in the middle).
 3. The stop at the racetrack being on the opposite side of the road, thus causing further traffic chaos when people get off the light rail.
 4. No stop for the SCG/ Football stadium, instead have to get off on Anzac parade – this is madness
 5. Potential loss of bus services (no one can confirm what is happening with Coogee buses)
 6. very ugly depot at Randwick racetrack
 7. Governance and corruption of the project in general.
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I am disgusted that the randwick racecourse was allowed to keep it's frontage at the expense of trees – the community should never have lost it's trees when a private company didn't loose any of it's business space.

Why on earth did anyone approve a project that will be at capacity just after opening.

Having worked at UNSW for 11 years i am aghast how awful this area now looks – it's a horrible ugly eyesight and removed some of the best green trees in NSW. This is disgusting and disgraceful.

The following points are of serious concern to me and should rightly be of serious concern to everyone.

Not to mention the carbon impact on the environment of the loss of so many old trees.

I am also very concerned about the legacy we leave future generations, very poor decisions are being made that will dire consequences for generations.

This government is elected by the people but is not acting for the people. We do NOT want it, how can our concerns, beliefs and quality of life be ignored with such devastating results.

Please stop this before any more damage is done. It is poor decision making and NOBODY agrees or wants it.

There is a significant lead time for trees to become big enough to be utilized by wildlife and offsets are not provided in close proximity to where canopy was lost, further stressing local biodiversity.

Although I have not written every word of this submission myself, it completely expresses my concerns as I have been following this activity since 2014 and I am continually astounded at the LACK of integrity and commonsense, and disregard for the people directly affected by the upheaval and ripping the trees out which had the most important significance on many levels. Just total ARROGANCE by this Minister and government!

Historic tree removal and habitat for animals and humans and air quality.

The Light Rail, is an outdated transport mode which has destroyed more than it will ever benefit. A disaster for the Municipality, Sydney sides and a total waste of our taxes for a massive 67meter tram that will be over capacity from Day 1. Bad Governance and Process every way you turn. Constructed by a Govt hell bent at forging ahead no matter the cost to the Environment and the Community – hang your heads in shame !!

The destruction of our environment and difficulty of navigating our streets

Broadly:

- The impact on public green space, loss of flora & fauna
 - local aboriginal are fact site (Alison Rd) & subsequent handling of site
 - Priority & influence given to industries that are huge tax revenues, ie, horse racing/ football / gambling : overseas student fees (UNSW),
 - concerns about returning proper / easy access to park lands (Centennial Park)
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My concerns are not limited to the following. Over all thing the entire project has been the pretense of response to community concerns. And often blatant disregard. A govt that is spending vast amounts of taxpayer money and not listening is disgusting in the extreme.

Why has this construction impacted so heavily on the previously simple way the Community could move around the Municipality? Why has so much of our environment, trees and greenery been destroyed? I believe that a Metro underground would have been the only way for a Govt that protected the environment to support with good planning to support a lasting legacy for this City.

This project always had the potential to provide substantially improved public transport services to the Sydney business district, our major sports precincts and one of the nation's largest universities, but its design and implementation have been subverted by the State Government's willingness to pander to the commercial interests of organisations rather than focus on the purpose for which the project was approved.

The unnecessary destruction of hundreds of historic trees is demonstrative of the Government making decisions to favour an interest group (the Australian Jockey Club) and against the public interest, by changing the preferred route of the light rail.

There are numerous examples of such decision making, not to mention poor management of the entire project.

Also I am concerned at the lack of transparency in planning and award of contracts without public oversight.

As a local resident of the South East I have many concerns regarding the planning and delivery of the CBD Light Rail project and I believe a full Royal Commission is required. Please find a summary of my concerns:

- The decision making process that resulted in the light rail being chosen over the eastern suburbs extension.
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What a disaster this has become.

As someone who sees this debacle unfold on a daily basis, who is a resident and will be a user of this rail, I am astounded at the poor design of this project. None of us rejected the idea of better public transport, however, we now have concrete poles with wires where we once had trees. Why were the wires not at least placed underground? More importantly, why wasn't an underground metro designed for this area, why have we had to endure all this destruction for such an appalling piece of infrastructure? It would seem this government cannot see far enough into the future, that Sydney rates as much of a great city as London or Paris, if only our government would help us build it. Why has this government dumbed down what they are providing for the future of this city?

It takes me triple the time to drive thru my municipality due to the traffic congestion.

First of all an underground metro should be built, not this 19c monstrosity!

What a mess this project is, taking so long and the whole track ripped up at once. Most disappointed that so many trees were felled in Randwick, ruining ANZAC and Alison Rds. Shame on the government who allowed this to occur in the face of so many residents protesting.

I'm particularly concerned that is not the best solution for pedestrians, and the felling of so many additional fig trees along Anzac Parade to make way for unnecessary and also temporary changes.

The unwarranted destruction of many of Sydney's most significant trees does not support a livable city.

I was dismayed at the destruction of trees at Anzac parade. I am a scientist at Western Sydney University, and I have a very clear understanding how damaging this action has been on the biodiversity of that area, the fact that these large and old trees supported the life of hundreds of thousands of other creatures and that by providing shade, they reduced the impact of temperature increases from climate change on the local environment.

The destruction of these trees most certainly affected all of living in Sydney, robbing us of their beauty and aesthetic value, and not just us but for present and future generations, particularly communities along the route as well as the wider public.

Sir Henry Parkes in 1888 speech at the opening of the Centennial Park talked of it as the people's park, for us to see that no power invades our right to enjoy it. Yet a decision to destroy the trees that make this park so special was made.

Sir Henry Parkes said at the opening of the park and the subsequent planting of trees there and at Anzac parade - "In the course of the next few years (this park) will be converted into a place of beauty and joy forever. It will be yours and so long as the land shall last it will be for you, and it is a great obligation that rests upon you as free people to see that no power, no combination, invades your right in the enjoyment of this great boon.

It is emphatically the people's park and you must always take as much interest in it as if by your own hands you had planted the flowers; and if you take this interest in it, and if you thus rise to the full appreciation of its great beauty, and your great privileges, the park will be one of the grandest adornments of this beautiful country."

These 100 year old trees are Sydney's unique resource. We've been told they'll be replaced by young trees. But what is the value of each of these old figs? The complex habitat they provide to birds, bats and other creatures, the joy they bring to us, the memories, their majestic beauty.

Cutting those trees was an act of vandalism!

I also have other grave concerns about the Light rail project.

Firstly this has been a debacle from woe to go...

Life is not all about getting from A-B to be wonderful little economic units. More thought needs to be given to this incessant (imported) growing of Sydney without real vision in regards to our history, our health and what make Sydney a great place to live (or did). This is a most disappointing venture and not a win for Sydney.

This project has been a debacle from its inception.

Now I understand other trees are threatened because of poor environmental management. This area of Sydney already has poor canopy cover.

I am particularly concerned about the impact for public transport for people living in Pagewood, La Perouse, Matraville, Daceyville, Malabar etc. The light rail construction has exacerbated the difficult of travelling to the city and has added to problems of congestion, inadequate parking and noise pollution.

With the construction of thousands of units, it is difficult to see how you will be able to serve this area with additional buses to service the suburbs along Bunnerong Road and Anzac Parade. Anzac Parade is our only access point to the city. The roads are already congested, buses will be unable to use the Anzac Parade route, there is inadequate parking for people to leave their cars at Kingsford (the Light Rail has resulted in the removal of parking spaces), so it will be difficult for us to even use the Light Rail. This is an area that is growing in population, with major retail outlets including WestField and Pacific Place. it is a planning debacle of the highest order, especially as you also have Port Botany in the area.

The light rail is truly a mess for people living in the South Eastern Suburbs. I request recommendations are made to ensure potential and future infrastructure projects are properly assessed and managed
