



Lee Rhiannon MLC

Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

JSC CROSS CITY TUNNEL

- 2 FEB 2006

RECEIVED

Rev Fred Nile
Chairperson
Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

2nd February 2006

Dear Rev Nile,

Response to evidence given by Ms Jane Anderson, ESNA

Today Ms Jane Anderson gave evidence to the Inquiry on behalf of the Eastern Suburbs Neighbourhood Association. Unfortunately Ms Anderson chose to misuse the Inquiry process to make inflammatory statements based on false assertions. Her accusation that I have lied and brought into question the integrity of the Inquiry and the Greens is completely false.

Ms Anderson described as "totally outrageous" the claim that Joybellies café, previously of 269 Bourke St Darlinghurst, had gone bankrupt due to the Cross City Tunnel. She bases her view on the fact that the café was sold the month before the Tunnel opened in August 2005. However, as Ms Anderson should be aware, Bourke St was half-closed from May 2005. This change led directly to a sharp downturn in takings at Joybellies, causing it to close in July 2005. I am in possession of a letter dated 28th June 2005 from the owner of Joybellies, Ms Melissa Vanos, to the City of Sydney indicating strong opposition to the traffic changes due to adverse impacts on local businesses.

Indeed, I understand that Ms Kylie Cossa, owner of Tre Scalini's restaurant on the corner of Liverpool and Yurong Sts, surveyed local business owners on their attitude to the traffic changes in the area. There was overwhelming opposition, with only one business indicating support. Many businesses have suffered a loss of takings from the changes, and some have been forced to close altogether.

The evidence of Ms Anderson also contained factual errors relating to Carrolls Hardware. A staff member of mine has today spoken with the proprietor, Mr Peter Carroll, to double-check the facts. Ms Anderson stated that the shop has been at its current location for two years; the real figure is in fact nine years. Ms Anderson stated that building contractors for the Tunnel are spending thousands of dollars weekly at the store; the reality is that, according to Mr Carroll, one contractor is spending approximately \$300 per month at his shop and no more.

More generally, Ms Anderson has misrepresented the Greens' vision for the area. It is possible to disagree on the merits of individual traffic measures; however it is unacceptable to call into question the integrity of myself or the Greens.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Rhiannon MLC