

## **INQUIRY INTO CROSS CITY TUNNEL**

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Kylie Cossa

Telephone:

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Theme:

Summary

## **Submission to Cross City Tunnel lodged by Kylie Cossa**

My husband and I have owned & operated a restaurant in East Sydney for the past 19 years. We live in Woollahra and have 3 daughters attending Sceggs Darlinghurst.

The Cross City Tunnel has had direct impact on our business and personal lives.

Although the tunnel has been useful on the odd time I wish to access the Glebe Island Bridge or fish markets – from Woollahra, on the whole travelling around our city has become more difficult, more time consuming and much more stressful.

Street closures and the narrowing of roads to effectively ‘funnel’ traffic into the CCT have resulted in a dramatic loss of business. Our customers have a difficult time accessing East Sydney from the city. It is almost impossible to access East Sydney from the Woolloomooloo area.

Taxi drivers take far longer to arrive, sometimes not coming at all. On occasion we have quizzed drivers about this and they cite the difficulty in reaching us due to the increased traffic problems.

We have been appalled at the complete lack of consultation by the RTA, Tunnel consortium and City Council. Whilst residents of the area have had some limited consultation, business owners have been omitted completely. We have not been included in questionnaires, hand outs or community meetings. When Bourke St closed some businesses located in the immediate area, believed it was due to temporary road work.

**The RTA has admitted that no business impact study was ever done in relation to the Cross City Tunnel.** As a result businesses are suffering, some have already closed and no doubt others will follow.

On a personal note, taking our kids to school in Darlinghurst prior to the CCT tunnel was a pleasure. We drove in relative ease down William Street, turned left into Bourke and dropped off or picked our kids up. Since the opening of the CCT this trip has become a nightmare.

Travelling down the narrowed William St is fraught with difficulties. What was once a well designed arterial road has now become a slow moving traffic jam. Bourke Street is now fully closed so Sceggs parents are forced to turn into the already overloaded Crown St. This turn into Crown St is now very dangerous, as the reduction of William St lanes has forced that turn to become a very sharp one with poor visibility.

Every morning and afternoon Sceggs parents are jammed into Crown St, then turn left into the eastern part of Stanley and block that road too, then turn right into Bourke – where they proceed to drop off or pick up their kids. It is not unusual to be stuck in this small part of Darlinghurst for 15minutes.

Those parents from the East, not wishing to battle William and associated Streets, must turn into Darlinghurst earlier and travel down Liverpool Street – effectively blocking that street in the same way.

At sporting matches on Saturday mornings, parents complain non-stop about the crazy and stressful traffic conditions.

The Cross City Tunnel was sold to the people of Sydney on the basis it would get cars off the streets, thereby improving traffic conditions, pollution & travelling time. There is no evidence it has accomplished any of these things. While a small amount of people benefit from the tunnel travelling from East to West, many people from the East wish to access the actual city or suburbs adjoining the city and these people have no option but to continue using the narrowed William or Oxford Streets. Traffic conditions have been purposefully changed in order to accommodate the tunnel and fulfil contractual obligations. The tunnel remains underused and our surface roads have more traffic jams than ever before. I understand the people of Sydney feeling they have been cheated on this deal. We have lost usage of public roads and easy access to our city for a fast trip to Darling Harbour. Hardly a good deal!