

Submission
No 3

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

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I wish to make a brief submission to the standing committee regarding the lack of adequate public transport in the Hills Area. I have lived in the Baulkham Hills area for over 30 years, and when I came here with my family there were no buses at all. Those with station waggons took turns taking the children and bringing them back home after school. Thankfully school buses are active in the area today. We also created a pool of dads cars to take the boys from the then St Michaels boys home to and from the Police boys club in Parramatta. Our children had to be ferried to sport, entertainment, school functions and parties, We also had to take our kids to part time jobs at Woolies and Coles and then pick them up at 9.30 to bring them home. Not a lot has changed, there are buses to SevenHills Station and Parramatta early in the morning and up till 7 pm at night. There are few buses during the middle of the day and if you get to Seven Hills after 2pm you have to wait until 4.15 before the next bus will take you to Baulkham Hills. You can take a taxi if you have the \$25 for the 12 minute ride! The lack of public transport infrastructure forces families in the Hills to own and operate at least 2 cars, as our children grow up they all want a car to enable them to get to Uni, work, or to socialise. My wife and I recently retired, and we now find we still need to run two cars as we both have some age related issues and need to attend Doctors or specialists, and there is no way to get to them by public transport. Recently people got very excited about the new T Way buses, one route cuts through the back of the Hills and if I wish to use it it is at least a 20 minute walk to get to the bus stop, and the time table is very sparse in times of frequency.

There seems to be a fixation from the transport planners to connect Parramatta and Chatswood, I know very few people in this area, who work there, and if they do they have a company car and would not use Public Transport. Many of the Hills residents work in the city, or at Castle Hill, Ryde, Burwood or Parramatta. Big traffic jams now occur in the area because people are seeking jobs at Norwest Business Park at Castle Hill, and there are no buses readily available. I know Woolworths runs its own staff bus from local stations to its HQ, but these buses are not available to the general public.

It is now planned to bring another 250,000 people into the new Rouse Hill Area. The local infrastructure of roads, parking and public transport, cannot provide adequate benefits now. There is one thing we have in abundance, this is shopping centres, and junk mail, begging you to go there and spend money.

I always understood that town planners in local council and State Govt. planned for the future, I honestly do not believe any consultation with local residents takes place and the outcomes are that the public service is in chaos management mode and wants to band aid issues due to allocation of funds and common sense project management that get things done. A light rail system would be a boon and would allow residents to get to the places they need to attend. Will it happen? Well I have waited 30 years and seen no improvement, My children and grandchildren have no faith that State and local Government will achieve any solutions. I do have an understanding of the State System having been the NSW Government Printer for many years and having to defend the public service to my friends employed in the commercial world. The Hills area does need some attention, not just another tollway that turns into a moving car-park nearly mornings and late afternoons, This is another reason for more cars in the Hills area, as the mums take the kids to all after school, activities, as the dads are always stuck in traffic until after 7pm. I am sure you will hear this tale from others but I also wished to add my thoughts to your deliberations Thank You.