

INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE SYDNEY BASIN

Organisation: Randwick City Council
Name: Ms Sima Truuvert
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Date Received: 4/08/2006

Subject:

Summary

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Our Ref: F2006/00136
(Contact Officer: Aoife Wynter - 93990954)

26 July 2006

The Director,
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Madam/Sir

SUBJECT: Inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution in the Sydney basin

I refer to your letter of invitation, dated 16 June 2006, to make a submission on the above noted inquiry.

Randwick City Council welcomes this inquiry into the health impacts and possible ways of improving air pollution within the Sydney basin.

The terms of reference of the inquiry have been viewed. This submission provides comment in relation to parts 1 (c) and (g) i.e. the causes of air pollution and recommended strategies in relation to transport impacts on air pollution.

It is considered that increasing rates of air pollution can be attributed, in part, to increasing use of private vehicles through-out the Sydney metropolitan area. Within Randwick City Council, as at the 2001 census, 41.2% of dwellings had a car and 28.5% had two or more cars. Increasing levels of car dependence can be linked to insufficient public transport services within the region. *The Randwick City Plan*, our 20 year strategic framework seeks to reduce our community's reliance on private vehicles through increased pedestrian and bicycle links and by advocating for improved public transport. Randwick City's Transport Study informed *The Randwick City Plan* and indicated that the existing percentage of reliance on private vehicles alongside projected population growth rates will result in future traffic congestion

within our region thereby worsening air quality. *The Metro Strategy* for Sydney has identified limited improvements in public transport nominated for the Eastern Suburbs with bus corridors being strengthened but no commitment to a light/standard rail extension into the area despite significant requirements for increasing densities within the region. It is also noted that recent service cuts to buses within the Eastern Suburbs does little to reduce reliance of private vehicles and therefore improve air quality.

As part of any investigation into air pollution, appropriate strategies to reduce dependence on private vehicles needs to be a priority. Randwick City Council advocates for the introduction of light/standard rail into this section of the Eastern Suburbs to reduce reliance on private vehicles, road congestion and to improve local and regional air quality.

Randwick City Council looks forward to a favourable outcome from this inquiry involving practical strategies to reduce dependence on private vehicles, through improved levels of sustainable public transport, an effective way to reduce air pollution within the Sydney basin.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sima Truuvert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sima Truuvert

Director of City Planning