

**Submission
No 109**

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

Name: Mr James Doyle

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After completing my secondary schooling in Coffs Harbour I moved to Castle Hill in February, 2008 to take up an apprenticeship with a radio communications company in Alexandria. Being on an apprentices salary (\$318 a week after tax) I had little choice but to live in Castle Hill where my father resides.

Initially, I began using public transport to get to and from work but I eventually chose to drive each day. I had to walk to Old Northern Road and catch a bus at 6.35am to the city and walk to Wynyard Station. I would then catch a train to Redfern station, walk to Regent street and then catch a bus to Alexandria and then walk half a kilometre to work. If all transport was running on time I would arrive at work right on my expected commencement time. This seldom happened. It was not unusual to be half an hour late.

Often buses at Castle Hill would be full before they got to my bus stop and would drive past and I would have to wait for another bus. Connections were always a problem and last but not least, it would cost me over \$100 a week in fares.

I now drive to Alexandria in a small fuel efficient car and even by avoiding the toll roads I can still leave for work around 6.45am and arrive prior to 8am. The traffic along Old Northern Rd, Pennant Hills Road, Marsden Rd and Victoria Rd is challenging with the sun in your eyes in both directions each day. From Gladesville Bridge to Anzac Bridge is a nightmare most days in both directions.

I was so excited by the prospect of catching a train from Castle Hill to Green Square or Redfern rather than facing the traffic congestion each day. The Hills is a great place to live but its so difficult to get anywhere in a hurry-we are hamstrung by the lack of adequate public transport.