

**Submission  
No 144**

## **THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR**

**Organisation:** Sydney Hills Business Chamber  
**Name:** Ms Robin Baird  
**Position:** Executive Officer  
**Date received:** 17/10/2008

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## UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTH WEST SECTOR

Sydney Hills BUSINESS CHAMBER speaks as the collective voice of the Sydney Hills business community. With a reach into approximately 3000 businesses, the CHAMBER is charged with the responsibility of voicing the concerns of the local business community in regards to transport, infrastructure and any other matter impacting the local economy.

We welcome the State Government's willingness to hold this Inquiry and request the opportunity to address the Inquiry on behalf of the local business community.

We highly encourage the Upper House to hold at least one hearing in the Baulkham Hills Shire in order that the local community can have the opportunity to participate.

For more information on this submission, please contact Sydney Hills BUSINESS CHAMBER President Mr Tony Moran via the contact details as listed below.

Issues of concern to the Chamber and its membership are as follows:

### 1. The inequity of the M4 and M5 toll Cashback System which discriminates against the North West Sector;

No such system is available to workers in the north west who now pay up to four separate tolls every working day. This places an unfair burden upon the employees of NW Sydney based companies commuting from out of the area to their Hills based place of employment. Alternatively this burden must be carried over to Hills based employers via higher salaries in order to compete for quality staff.

Recommendation: Implement toll cashback for M2 and M7 or provide an adequate 24 hour public transport system for out of area employees to commute to NW Sydney.

### 2. The lack of a heavy rail or Metrolink service to NW Sydney;

For many years, the State Government has promised a rail link for Northwest Sydney in one form or another. It now appears that this may be delayed or possibly deleted from all funding scenarios.

Recommendation: To address the current and projected growth in population and economic development, it is imperative that either a heavy rail OR Metrolink service be immediately commenced to service the residents and employees of NW Sydney.

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### 3. The State Government control and use of developer contributions (Section 94) for Baulkham Hills Shire;

We are very concerned at the prospect of handing over Section 94 contributions collected by Baulkham Hills Shire Council to the State Government. We are confident with the local council's decision making process and use of these funds at a local level as we believe they best understand local needs.

Recommendation: Power and authority to allocate Section 94 funds should remain with local council rather than State Government.

### 4. The lack of inter and intra-regional public transport services

The burden of a region tied to their private vehicles due to the lack of public transport services falls heavily upon business owners and residents alike. Rising fuel costs, higher than average tolls and the increasing cost to the environment which result from the average 2.3 vehicle ownership per household in this area, are not a legacy of personal choice but arise out of necessity.

Recommendation: Immediately improved, more frequent bus routes into, out of and inside NW Sydney and in particular, the Sydney Hills. Immediately allow private bus operators to utilise the dedicated bus T-Ways. Increased and improved long term commuter parking along bus routes.

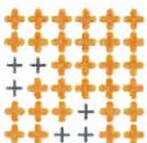
### 5. Peak hour traffic congestion along Norwest Boulevard;

Each morning and afternoon, the major business park in the Baulkham Hills Shire is crippled by private vehicles carrying employees into and out of the area. This impacts the local business operators with staff often arriving late to work and requesting to leave early to go home in order to miss the traffic.

Recommendation: Confirmation that the west facing M2 ramps at the Windsor Road interchange at Baulkham Hills will be commenced immediately. Immediately improve timeliness and frequency of bus services into and out of the business park from all over the shire and especially from Parramatta, Seven Hills and Pennant Hills railway stations as well as from Castle Towers, Baulkham Hills and Rouse Hill.

### 6. Traffic congestion along Showground Rd in peak business and retail trading periods;

During morning and evening peak, as well as peak retail trading times such as Thursday evenings and weekends, Showground Rd suffers from total gridlock between Windsor Rd and Old Northern Rd. As a major thoroughfare through the



region to provide access to the M7 and M2, Blue Mountains and beyond, this is a crucial arterial road requiring urgent attention.

Recommendation: Immediate widening and upgrade of Showground Rd.

#### 6. Traffic congestion at the major intersection of Windsor Rd, Old Northern Rd and Seven Hills Rd at Baulkham Hills

The general traffic congestion due to overload of this intersection by all forms of traffic impacts business and residents throughout the whole Baulkham Hills LGA.

Recommendation: Create an underpass at the intersection of Old Northern Road, Windsor Road and Seven Hills Road, at Baulkham Hills.

