

**Submission
No 111**

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

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I am responding to calls for submissions. I reside in Oakhill Estate, Castle Hill, am a mother and work part-time (3 days) commuting to the city. To be honest, it takes me 3 hours a day to travel to and from work due to the traffic. Its like Im driving to Foster every day! By the time I get to work Im exhausted and likewise at home. The commuting puts a strain on family relationships as Im always tired. My son starts school in another year and Im seriously thinking of resigning due to the travelling getting me down and the fact that I dont want to be dropping him off at school at 7am so I can get to the city in time for work and likewise him staying there until 6pm. What sort of life will he have.

When the M2 was built and express buses to the city were introduced I thought it was a wonderful idea. No longer did I have to drive 20 minutes to Pennant Hills station, fuss around with finding a car park and hopping on the train. But soon, after about a year, the M2 has become clogged with traffic. It is beyond me why on earth the government never considered having an express bus lane the whole way down the M2. I catch the City bus from Dural. On a good day (school holidays) it can take me 45 minutes, on a bad day almost 2 hours. It can take up to half an hour to get from my suburb to the next at Thompsons Corner, West Pennant Hills. What a joke! And there are commuters standing all this way on the bus! Suggestions:

1. An express bus only lane the WHOLE WAY down the M2 - this should encourage more people to use the buses and leave their cars at home. It is ridiculous that buses have to merge with general traffic going to the city just after Pennant Hills Road. It might be a cheaper option than the rail.

2. A monorail over the existing old northern road and castle hill road and down the M2?

2. A metro line or rail line built from Windsor to Epping first. Not the other way around. All development should stop out to windsor until proper infrastrucure is complete. Why is it that the Queensland government can build a place, such as Robina, then 10 years later they have built a train line direct from Robina to Brisbane city. Why do we have such a lack of foresight in New South Wales? I have been a liberal supporter all my life. Perhaps if you actually help our area you may just finally get people converting to Labour if its votes you are concerned about. A metro from Parramata to the city should not be buillt first because they already have a train line. The commuters have express trains from the city to Parramatta and I give you my word, they are NOT overcrowded trains. Now you want to replicate that?

The only way for Sydney to grow is out north west and south.

The Rudd government is trying to encourage mothers to return to work ... there are many many mothers that live out my way that commute to the city - its taking 3 hours out of our day, our children's lives when normally it should take no longer than 45 mins one way.

Whatever you decide, just do it now. In 20 years time this entire area will be gridlocked, Windsor road a car park.. Castle Hill Road already is, commuters frustrated and angry. You are ruining businesses. I am so sick of my 3 hours travelling a day that my family are seriously considering of moving to Pennant Hills or anywhere within walking distance to a train line. I could go on and on but I will finish here.