

Submission
No 14

THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY'S NORTH-WEST SECTOR

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General Purpose Standing Committee No 4

I have been a Hill's resident for 43 years and always disturbed by the reliance on cars. Reflectively, it would have been so easy to prepare a rail corridor before the massive development began. Requests were ignored by the then coalition governments because it was a taken for granted safe electorate and later by Labour governments as they obviously would receive no credit for any solution.

Not to over emphasise; but some 200,000 Australians live in this NW corridor with no public transport, other than recently, unreliable private bus companys. We have watched frustratingly as a federal govt blew billions on a Darwin Adelaide rail link, while our urgent need was left unfunded.

Thanks to NSW govt initiatives, the current Hillsbus service is relatively well priced and is the fastest transport to the city. However the sheer numbers of commuters makes for crowded buses. Stand room only or by-passed passengers trying to reach the city or North Sydney. The system struggles and no amount of extra buses can handle the potential custom.

We, as special interest groups, and the previous local council have strived for shorter bus routes and better timetables but some residents oppose buses through their area?

Only rail can solve this solve this transport dilemma. However that seems some years in the future? In my view many thousands could and would take advantage of rail, especially with predicted opening of Epping link to North Sydney, CBD and Macquarie park and Uni.. No further parking is available at Pennant Hills and Beecroft, even if gridlock permitted us to drive to a station. There are bus links but via every street, retirement home and shopping center along the route. The bus trip to station takes longer than the rail to city.

This ridiculous situation should be remedied with fast direct bus links to the stations via dedicated bus lanes and most probably down some of the thoroughfares at the moment blocked by NIMBYS. A few isolationists should not block so many people from better transport.

Thanking you for considering out transport needs.

Yours faithfully

Peter leMarquand