

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT**

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN The CSLER suffers from many problems, which were anticipated and highlighted by many professional and community organisations and protestors. These include - project management: there has been no competent, in house (ie departmental) project management capability directing consultants or firmly steering the project from a knowledgeable, client perspective. Hence the poor management of statutory authorities, cost overruns and community hostility to the project - because it has been so badly conceived and managed. Any competent Dept of Transport professional technical officers with a body of knowledge about Sydney's environment and the transport alternatives have been "let go" in the public sector downsizing obsession. - Project scoping, intelligent route selection, cost effective and useful concept design, technical understanding, procurement comparisons or constraints and opportunities assessments have been all been ignored. The route and the technology chosen was imposed on Sydney. The route ploughed through flats and across a huge swathe of public park, trashed many historically irreplaceable trees, violated ANZAC memories and has caused irreparable damage to Aboriginal heritage. All of this could have been avoided. The original tram route servicing Oxford Street commercial strip from Hyde Park to Taylor Square has been ignored, and the heavy handed design has created a wasteland of concrete and steel posts along Alison Road Randwick, lost magnificent trees and created traffic nightmares for people landlocked in the eastern suburbs - design: there was no attempt to match the constraints of topography, trees, history and heritage, by adapting to the former tram route/s with sensitive, light weight tram technology, which is an approach often adopted in Europe. Rather, a heavy American system, hugely over engineered, has been adopted. This is more akin to a heavy rail design. - scape goat - the government is attempting to bully the contractors Acciona by blaming cost overruns on their incompetence. This is immoral and may lead to even more cost, as it can be foreseen that the government will not win in the courts. Of course not, it is the government's currying of favour with its Sydney Cricket Ground and Racecourse supporters. A very poor outcome for the Sydney public, those taxpayers who will inevitably shoulder the burden of cost overruns and have also endured construction chaos. - Trees: the war on trees has broken any trust in government and has broken the spirit of many Sydney people. The absence of outcry from the RSL movement is despicable as the most sacred avenue in Australia outside Canberra has been violated beyond recognition. Trees hold the potential for a liveable city future. No amount of new seedlings will maintain the ecological benefit for many years of those old trees which have gone. Absolutely shocking hostility towards the natural world and our heritage.