

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2018

Partially
Confidential

The Director
Standing Committee on Public Accountability

To the Director,

Submission to the inquiry into the impact of the CBD and South East Light Rail Project

As a resident of Surry Hills, I wish to share my experiences of the impact of the Light Rail project on my life, my neighbourhood and my community.

The government's response to the financial and social impacts of the project on residents and businesses has been woeful. I live next to the Olivia Gardens construction/compound site and we have lived through noise, dust, horrible vibrations which made our house shake. Residents have cracks in their homes and the government has taken no responsibility. It has caused us intense stress and there is no end in sight.

I am gravely concerned about businesses along the route in our community that have suffered. The government's response to this has been disgusting. They have provided no compensation and if they do consider it the onus is on the business to provide proof that the light rail has impacted negatively on the business. Businesses such as the Book Kitchen have shut down and have been provided with no relief or compensation. The project has continued to rip apart our community.

The government should provide businesses that have closed along the route with financial compensation and acknowledge the project is responsible. There should be rent relief and an agreement with landlords that rent will not be increased for the duration of the project.

The communication from the government with residents about the project delays and financial compensation has been non-existent. I have requested timelines but they don't give them.

I am sick of living next to a construction site. We have lived in a state of uncertainty for years now. Including the planning process prior to construction. The Olivia Gardens building was demolished in 2015 so it's over 3 years now of living with the construction site in various forms. We are tired. The businesses are closing or doing badly. The paths are muddy from dirt and dust, Devonshire St is a rat maze and people just want this to end. But no one knows when! We all hate it and we are all exhausted from being in the middle of it.
Yours sincerely