

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 June 2018

Partially
Confidential

We have lived on Bourke St Surry Hills for more than 30 years and have no doubt that the local amenity of Surry Hills has been severely and negatively impacted by the Light Rail. Even now, we called upon the Premier of NSW, with the Transport and Infrastructure Ministers to walk the Light Rail route, particularly through Surry Hills to witness the devastation caused by the Light Rail and the huge number of local businesses that have been forced to close. What compensation has been offered for their losses? We were advised prior to the start of any building work, that this process would be completed section by section and instead we have been stuck with the opposite: a nightmare of incomplete sections and chaos around them. We have asked for, but have never been shown a business case that could possibly justify the enormous (and increasing) expense and disruption the Light Rail has produced to date. We made representations to Transport for NSW in 2016 pointing out that for all the rest of the Light Rail route outside of Surry Hills, there was a stop at the top and the bottom of every hill. Disability access is reportedly very important to the NSW Government. If that is true, then the Government should immediately modify the Wimbo Park site and install a platform and stop now, while construction is occurring at this site. "Future proofing" as agreed to by the NSW Government merely unfairly delays any access to Light Rail for frail and disabled people unable to walk up steep Devonshire St to reach the Ward Park Light Rail Stop. We also requested sensible and necessary changes to traffic light timing and controls to improve car access from Bourke Street turning right onto Cleveland Street. No changes have occurred and this intersection remains frustrating and very dangerous. Northbound cars have a protected phase allowing turn onto Cleveland Street, and so should cars travelling south west at these traffic lights. Although there is a staff parking area on the Wimbo Park/Olivia Gardens work site, it has not prevented Light Rail workers occupying most of the local resident parking throughout the 7am to 5pm period daily. This is yet another unfair part of the construction process. We cannot stop the Light Rail, and so we ask that is as good as possible for the residents of Surry Hills.