

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

**Organisation:** Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna

**Date Received:** 7 July 2018

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a Submission to the Inquiry. Ryde Hunters Hill flora and Fauna Preservation Society was established over 50 years ago in response to local residents' concerns at the loss of local bushland on public land. We are concerned about the significant loss of trees on public land associated with the Sydney's CBD/SE Light Rail project which our members do not feel was in the public interest. It is our understanding that there was a realignment of the rail line project in response to a request by Racing NSW. This was to facilitate the future development of Crown land affected by the original alignment and which was under Racing NSW's care and control. We ask that this Inquiry consider whether this is correct reason for the realignment and whether the realignment was in the genuine public interest longer term given the loss of such mature trees and the community's strongly expressed objection to the loss of the trees. One of the government justifications for the new Crown land legislation was to improve transparency in public land management. However with the new Act the exact relationship between Racing NSW and the Crown land under its care and control remains unclear. It also remains unclear whether Crown land along the rail route will be managed according to the objects and principles of the current Crown Lands Act. We feel that the above should also be considered by the Inquiry. There is also a need to determine what tree replacement/retention on public land will be required as part of the project. Thank you for considering my Submission. Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society