

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 6 July 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

## **NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the CBD South East Light Rail**

### **Submission**

## Impact of the Project

### **Length of time affected**

3 years and counting

### **Financial loss estimate**

Loss of personal savings, loss of wages, loss of Superannuation Investments  
Complete loss of business good will and value

### **Impacts on social amenity (access, dust, noise, etc)**

It has been the worst time of my life. I am a 50-year-old male, who has never experienced anything like this in my life.

We have struggled to cope and being stuck in this environment every day, as we have put money and life into this business, and we cannot do anything about it.

### **Other impacts**

I have constant hay fever, allergies and eye irritation from the permanent dust clouds. My ears ring at night from the ongoing noise, and it is impossible to have any reasonable conversations during the construction.

Mentally this has broken me.

## Communication from Government

### **Date of Initial Communications (if any)**

2015

**Has there been any follow-up? Provide details**

There has been some, but nothing to help improve the matters that we face daily and constantly in regard to our being in a 'warzone'.

**How effective has this communication been (1 – Poor, 5 – Adequate, 10 – Excellent)**

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Government Assistance

**Date Assistance Offered**

2017

**Provide Details (if offered)**

Transport for NSW offered a small rental relief payment.

**What assistance was offered (do not provide dollar values)**

Ex-gratia rental relief payments small amount. Signed confidentiality agreements.

**What process did you undertake to obtain this assistance**

My business partner and my accountant managed the entire process, because I could not - mentally.

I know that it took many weeks to put the paperwork together, and quite a few weeks to get a response.

**How adequate was the assistance**

Not adequate at all. It didn't make sense (how it was calculated) and it wasn't anywhere near sufficient to compensate our losses. We pay \$400,000 p/a in rent alone.

**What were your out of pocket expenses to see assistance**

About \$2500, and we have only just been told we can claim that now for the second round of payments. That was not an option for the first round of payments.

**How adequate and effective was the process (1 – Poor, 5 – Adequate, 10 – Excellent)**

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Other details

**Have you been offered any other assistance (landlord, council, utilities, etc)**

We have had to fight with every other person or group associated with us. No-one has even come close to assisting or understanding our situation. Council did nothing, no support at all. TfNSW just kept saying "imagine the uplift". Well we wont make it.

**Anything else you wish to add**

We are in 2018 - it is a shame we live in this beautiful country called Australia, which I no longer recognise. However, there are Governments like this liberal government that come in and railroad everyone without considering the impact on those around them.

There is no consideration for what George street was and is to the City of Sydney, when these guys decided to demolish for the sake of progress. A 2-year project ends up being a 4 or 5-year project, with no thought to the people along this light rail. They put more consideration into the trees and amenities than they did to the people and businesses.

Personally - I will never recover from this disaster. It will haunt me for the rest of my life. Being in the best spot in the city for so many years, having the best business in the CBD for so many years - they just came and ripped that away from us.

They ripped our throat, they ripped our guts - our whole being.

How do I move forward and make something better for my young family - this is like another country where the Government can just take what they want?

We had a beautiful dining precinct - now we have a barrier precinct for 4 or 5 years, and we look at 'We are building tomorrows transport', like it is some kind of prophecy.

The amount of money they are spending on this, they should have thought about the people along this route who are meant to be here until the end.

The only gain is for the landlords, and the Government who will sell it off tomorrow and get more money for it.