

Submission
No 42

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am appalled by the needless and senseless destruction caused by the building of the CBD and South East (SE) light rail on my local amenity. It is criminal what has been done to the Centennial and Moore Park parklands due to rushed decisions that cater to placating the powerful few rather than the majority of people who use and love the parklands. Can anyone logically explain why the light rail route was changed from the racecourse side of the road to the Centennial Park side? Why was a priceless row of mature trees used and enjoyed by countless pedestrians and cyclists axed, while the racecourse remains untouched? The parklands have been completely abused by the building of the CBD and SE light rail. More than ten healthy Moreton Bay figs planted in the Robertson Road playing fields by the Friends of Centennial Park were pulled out and relocated to the Maroubra area, even though light rail representatives said they could be replanted in their original locations after the works were completed. Why didn't the Centennial and Moore Park Trust want to replant these trees? However, the biggest hole in every Sydneysider's heart comes from the destruction of the ancient Moreton Bay figs that once created a glorious memorial boulevard to the Anzacs. Most of us were complacent as we could not believe the government would show a lack of respect to such an important memorial. If you ask anyone about this destruction, everyone will tell you that "those trees" should never have been touched. There's no need to ask what is meant by "those trees" as all of Sydney mourns the loss of our historic Anzac figs. Again it was senseless as many experts went on record to say that there were other alternatives that would have kept the memorial boulevard intact. If that wasn't bad enough, we now have the thirty eight million dollar Tibby Cotter bridge which is called the bridge to nowhere because it does nothing and is used by almost no one. The bridge runs across Anzac Parade and now a new bridge will be built right next to it for the Sydney Girls High and Sydney Boys High students. The planning for the light rail has been catastrophic for the parklands and we the people are left with ugly poles and wires and two bridges with no plans to replant the majestic Moreton Bay figs that once lined our memorial boulevard. On a personal level, I live adjacent to the light rail works and the whole process has had a negative impact on me and my family. The communication to our community has been full of propaganda but little in the way of practical information. Each and every flyer opens by telling us the NSW government is building a state of the art light rail. The flyer then gives general information that there will be works on certain streets during a set period of time and to expect road closures, vibrations, etc., but it does not give us useful information. It doesn't tell us that vibrations won't start until after 10pm and you can expect to lose sleep on that night of the works. It doesn't tell us that on various nights more than twenty trucks will be parked outside our houses with men making a lot of noise and leaving their coffee cups, half eaten sandwiches, gloves, and other rubbish on our street. It doesn't tell us when the bus stop will be moved so when we are running for the bus, we see that the traffic lights are not where they were the day before and the pedestrian crossing is in a new location making us late for the bus and work. Moreover, when we are offered respite from the works, we are sometimes told the afternoon before the works will take place, which is too short notice to organise any real respite from the noise. Lastly, our neighbourhood has suffered from much noise as well as dirt and filth from the mountains of dirt piled high in the Robertson Road playing fields. Several of us have had large cracks in our houses which we reported to the light rail office. An engineer from Acciona came to my house and viewed the cracks. He agreed that my house was extremely well maintained and that the only damage was on the walls nearest to the light rail works. My house was photographed by the light rail before works began and he agreed that these cracks have occurred only after the light rail works began near our house. He then promised to report back within the month but he never contacted me. Again it has been another disappointing experience with the CBD and SE light rail.