

**Submission
No 53**

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

Name: Ms Adnil Ramos

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a Submission to the Inquiry. In particular, I am concerned about the impact on local business and communities as a result of the project. My specific concerns follow:

- 1) The loss of valuable, mature urban street trees (some over a century old) which provide much needed cooling during this era of increasing urban heat island effects and crucial habitat for local endemic fauna.
- 2) The detrimental impact of many dozens of local operations due to ongoing (seemingly endless) construction along the Light Rail route, resulting in the shut-down of a good number of much loved and well-established small businesses and a subsequent deterioration of neighbourhood vitality.
- 3) The future cancellation of many bus lines which now provide direct service to the CBD from the South and various Eastern suburbs. Upon cancellation, commuters will be forced to disembark and then catch a Light Rail vehicle, which means a more difficult and longer journey (and potentially more expensive and more crowded when one compares the capacity of both modes of transport).
- 4) Pedestrian safety as the portion of the Light Rail in the CBD will have a third rail which could potentially electrocute anyone who made contact with it. A young woman has already been electrocuted and the chances of future injuries are great in a segment of the city where people are often engrossed in their phones or inebriated while walking.
- 5) Excessive cost: even without the lawsuits being filed by ACCIONA, local businesses, and potentially others, there was over a half billion dollar blowout from the original budget.
- 6) The shamelessly irreverent disregard for a newly discovered sacred aboriginal site and accompanying artifacts where the terribly designed stabling yard now stands.
- 7) General ineptitude by the officials and "professionals" who enabled and managed this project (a laughingstock to any serious transport and civil engineers),
- 8) Utter lack of transparency and complete disrespect for the community at large, which has eroded any possible public trust for Transport NSW and the State Government in general.
- 9) The fact that this looks to the average Sydneysider like a landgrab and a part of a larger plan to develop a once historically significant and beautiful part of Sydney into a concrete-and-poles-and-wires-ridden landscape. As an aside, I was part of a group which demonstrated to preserve the historic trees along this route. The damage to the local landscape and businesses has been devastating to many people not only because of the ongoing inconvenience caused by barriers, construction, dust, noise, and traffic from the project, but also the marring of that which makes Sydney a wonderful place to live - small, interesting businesses and lush, mature landscaping. I was arrested in a very brutal fashion for my determination to protect our local environment, and to now hear the news that the project has no confirmed completion date and that more trees are slated for destruction after previous promises by State Government that no more would be removed reopen the wounds caused by that initial experience for me personally. I cannot imagine what it must feel like to be a business owner who has lost everything you have worked for only to have it completely sabotaged by a truly dodgy project. Please see this short video illustrating the heartache this project has caused. <https://youtu.be/4ZAhoRX4Ok8> Thank you for considering my Submission. Kind regards, Adnil Ramos