

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My wife and I are owners/occupiers of one a block of fifteen terrace houses (Heritage) on the northern side of Devonshire Street Surry Hills, between Waterloo and Holt Streets. Since the decision was handed down and subsequent construction of the Light Rail commenced, our lives have been severely affected. The mental strain placed upon us has been unbearable at times and something we should not have had to endure. Still ,to this day and as far back as 07 July 2016 when Acciona first sent contractors to assess our property for possible acoustic treatments, we have been disrespected, ignored and forced to spend hours upon hours of our time researching, telephoning, emailing and discussing problems thrust upon us as a result of this project and its poorly managed construction. So that our property and its value, our street and our suburb were not left to those who would have caused more damage than it already has, we (now in our retired years) have had to work hard and demonstrate to the so-called experts and engineers that their intended way of doing things, is neither the only nor best way to achieve an outcome. One particular example of this is when Acciona came to us (all owners of our block of 15 terrace houses) with forms to sign so that power could be supplied underground to our properties. The forms stated that we would all need to have a power pole in our front yards, approximately 1 metre in from the boundary and that they would initially paint each pole the colour we wished. This would have meant that instead of our power being provided by way of the 3 existing telegraph poles positioned kerbside, we would have 15 multi-coloured poles within our front yards. Absolutely ridiculous! A group of owners within our block got together, and after some research and discussion went back to Acciona questioning their need for poles within our front yards and suggesting an alternative. Acciona responded saying that this was the only way and an Ausgrid Standard. There was nothing they could do. When we refused to give them permission to install the poles and reiterated the alternative, they came back saying that we now did not need to have a pole but we would need to have a pit in our front yard. We again went back to them, refusing to give up a usable and valuable piece of our land. We questioned why we could not have wall mounted termination boxes installed, as with other houses within Devonshire Street Surry Hills. The final result was that we did not need to have neither a pole nor a pit, as was initially insisted to be the only way. We should not have had to be put through this lengthy and stressful process. What we have come to realise is Governments, both State and Local as well as the contractors they engage, do not care at all about the present or future affects on owners/residents, taxpayers and ratepayers as a result of this project. They will all move on. More than 160 car parking spaces have been removed from Devonshire Street alone and not one will be returned. Most days it is near on impossible to find a parking spot within one block of our home. We have had to pay more for recent renovations due to the unavailability of parking for trades people and deliveries. We have also suffered 'Loss of Amenity' being the use of our 1st floor front balcony due to this project and its construction. We used our balcony regularly from the time we purchased our property in 2003. It was an integral part of life in our home, being a great space for us to entertain, relax and enjoy the street life or to find a cool place on a summers day or evening, being on the southern side of our home. Since construction commenced we have been forced to remove our outdoor furniture and lock the doors to our balcony, due to excessive noise and dirt created by construction. When construction is completed and the Light Rail is running, we are told that it will be so much noisier in the evening and nights that they have fitted acoustic glass and seals to our windows and doors. This does not return to us the 'Amenity' which has been taken away from us. We first raised this with Acciona in February 2017, and then with TfNSW in November 2017 as a formal escalation, but to this day we have had no hearing nor result. Now we have 7 Ausgrid network pillars positioned on the footpath, just centimetres out from our house boundaries. These 7, already heavily graffitied obstructions, have been given to us as a replacement for the 3 telegraph poles, established trees and garden beds which were all kerbside and away from our homes. If we are unsuccessful in our latest attempt of having them relocated kerbside within planting spaces, every pedestrian whether they be able bodied, sight impaired, pushing a stroller or simply aged, will have to negotiate their way around them. This is another so called Ausgrid Standard and an absolute disgrace. As we have not been able to get any assistance from Acciona nor TfNSW (both pointing fingers at each other, Ausgrid and Council but are clearly just not interested) we have now pushed this on to Clover Moore. The annoying point in this matter is that WE have found, on Bourke Street Zetland between Portman and Ebsworth Streets, Ausgrid

network pillars positioned kerbside within planting areas. This example of what Ausgrid can do makes absolute sense and leaves an obstacle free footway for all.