

**Submission
No 169**

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

Name: Ms Sybille Frank

Date Received: 5 July 2018

Dear members of the Inquiry,

I am a Sydney resident and commuter who often uses part of the route taken by the CBD/SE Light Rail Project.

I have been particularly concerned about the impact of this project on social amenity through the thoughtless and unnecessary destruction of hundreds of mature street trees along the route from the city to to Randwick. I am also deeply concerned about whether this was the most efficient and effective route for a light rail corridor, and whether the actual benefits to commuters will outweigh the costs.

Hundreds of significant, mature trees have been sacrificed by the route chosen. Aside from the lack of respect shown to the historical Anzac Parade trees (planted to commemorate the sacrifices made by young Australian soldiers), the removal of these trees:

- deprives commuters, cyclists and pedestrians of large stretches of critical shade, particularly during summer months, which can never be replaced.
- removes shelter and protection for native animals and birds
- unnecessarily encroaches on Centennial parklands.

In addition, some magnificent trees were removed for 'convenience' of access for building works, where more thought and better planning could have enabled them to remain.

The choice of the route is also of concern, as large sections appear to go through areas where there is no easy access for commuters. Light rail works most effectively in densely populated areas where there are frequent stops, which people can easily/conveniently walk to. Very few people will be able to walk to any of the stops along Anzac Parade. Just who will benefit from this route? It is unlikely to take more cars off the road, nor will it be able to replace the buses needed to carry the waves of students to and from UNSW at peak times.

And I also have concerns about how well this light rail system will integrate with other public transport and rail systems.

I am a strong supporter of light rail and more sustainable and accessible forms of public transport, but I am deeply concerned about the planning processes for this project and about the influence of vested interests in its design and execution.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a Submission to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely, Sybille Frank

This email was sent by Sybille Frank via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important.