

**Submission  
No 79**

## **INQUIRY INTO SYDENHAM-BANKSTOWN LINE CONVERSION**

**Organisation:** The Battler  
**Date Received:** 13 October 2019

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**Sydenham – Bankstown Line Conversion Inquiry**  
**Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and Customer Service**  
**Parliament House**  
**Macquarie Street**  
**Sydney NSW 2000.**  
**12/10/2019**

Dear Portfolio Committee,

The Battler a community based group active in representing resident's interests in the suburbs of Auburn, Berala, Lidcombe and Regents Park is strongly opposed to the downgrading of the T3 Bankstown Line and its replacement with the Metro Southwest between Bankstown and Sydenham. This proposal will leave commuters from the nine stations West of Bankstown with no direct rail line to the City adding further to our disadvantage.

Lidcombe Station is already dangerously overcrowded at peak travelling times with many commuters driving to Lidcombe from Berala, Regents Park, Birrong, Yagoona, Sefton, Chester Hill, Leightonfield, Villawood and Carramar. Overcrowding at Lidcombe Station increased when the NSW Government in 2013 terminated the Inner West Line City to Liverpool via Regents Park and City to Bankstown via Regents Park services.

The increased number of commuters forced to travel to Lidcombe Station has exacerbated traffic congestion in the Lidcombe Town Centre and added to a big shortage of parking in the surrounding residential area.

The loss of another direct service (T3 Line) will place an added burden on Lidcombe Station with a potential increase of 19000 commuters.

The interchange at Lidcombe and another at Bankstown unfairly discriminates against those passengers who are less mobile in our communities, our senior citizens', young mums with children in prams and those with physical disabilities. These commuters are then forced to change on to trains that are already crowded with no available seating.

Our suburbs have taken a bigger share of the burden of increased population density in Sydney and in return we don't get improved infrastructure but we find our transport services are being stripped away.

It's a sad joke in our communities that our rail services have gone backwards, in 1930 the good residents of Berala could expect a train trip of 22 minutes to the City and depend on 94 rail services per day.

Our Community submitted 91% of the objections to the Bankstown – Sydenham Metro during the Department of Planning's 2018 PIR exhibition yet we have been excluded from any community consultation.

We have no objection to Metro as a form of public transportation but our community believes it is a waste of taxpayer funds to replace a proven heavy rail service with metro, metro should be utilised to provide public transport for those communities with no current access to rail services.

Our community asks the Committee to consider these concerns and stop the downgrading of the T3 Bankstown Line and recommend the restoration of the Inner West Line City to Liverpool via Regents Park and City to Bankstown via Regents Park and restore Express trains stopping at Auburn & Lidcombe Stations during peak travelling times.

Yours Faithfully

Tony Oldfield (Secretary for the Battler)