

**Submission
No 95**

INQUIRY INTO SYDENHAM-BANKSTOWN LINE CONVERSION

Name: Ms Andrea turner

Date Received: 14 October 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Transport and Customer Service
Sydenham – Bankstown Line Conversion Inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a long term resident of Hurlstone Park and have been a frequent user of the current T3 Bankstown Line for a decade. I am also a chartered civil engineer and whilst I have not specialised in transport engineering I have been involved in best practice options analysis and decision-making for many major projects in multiple countries over many years.

I oppose the conversion of the T3 Sydenham-Bankstown Line from a heavy rail to metro service and am relieved that the Inquiry is scrutinising the decision-making process which appears to be flawed on multiple levels.

There are significant issues and potential impacts associated with the proposed conversion that the Committee needs to take into consideration including for example the NSW Governments:

- repeated disingenuous narrative that the rezoning of land along the T3 line and the conversion to a metro system are completely separate issues when it is blatantly obvious that the T3 conversion to a metro system and associated privatization is being used as a gateway for development which will cause severe destruction to heritage suburbs
- complete lack of transparent consideration of viable alternative cost effective and less disruptive options to the T3 conversion such as signaling upgrades for the Sydney Trains network that could deliver significant increased frequency on the T3 line similar to that of the proposed metro whilst providing far greater carrying capacity especially during peak hours.
- lack of believable justification for the spending of billions of tax payers dollars on replacement of a functional railway line that could be improved at a fraction of the proposed cost whilst depriving higher priority areas with bottle necks and areas without access to trains with a new rail line.
- serious lack of transparency in planning and delivery of the project such as failure to release the full business case for the project and many related documents and charging for access to documents to increase barriers to the public accessing information.
- repeated failure to listen to warnings from four former rail executives about the loss of the Sydney Trains network "relief valve" and their concerns about the overall reduction in reliability of the network.
- failure to accurately inform commuters that most will be forced to stand for long distances due to the metro service having 70% less seats compared to the existing comfortable double-decker trains and instead showing glossy pictures of a handful of people in the new metro trains.
- inadequate detailed information provided generally and concentration on glossy propaganda rather than publicly accessible information and lack of genuine public consultation with all communities impacted especially west of Bankstown.

and that

- thousands of commuters will be forced onto crowded bus services during the conversion of the T3 line causing chaos and major congestion on road systems that are already over capacity.
- there will be permanent disconnection from the City and the Inner West lines currently directly connected to the T3 line.

- 9 stations west of Bankstown will lose direct access to the City, forcing thousands of commuters already experiencing long journeys into the city to interchange twice.

I urge the Committee to seriously review the concerns being raised and to stop the conversion of the T3 line to protect the existing communities along the corridor from over-development, minimise heritage destruction and ensure that public tax payers money is invested more appropriately into infrastructure projects that will benefit the public and not developers or foreign entities. It is essential that the Committee stop the NSW Government from signing contracts that will lock billions of dollars of public funds into irreversible deals that will not benefit the public.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Turner

Resident of Hurlstone Park