

Submission
No 32

INQUIRY INTO ACQUISITION OF LAND IN RELATION TO MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS

Name: Mr Winston Jeffrey

Date Received: 2 June 2021

June 2nd, 2021

URBAN FLOWER PTY LTD vs. SYDNEY METRO (NSW Government)

Addressed to: The Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Roads and The Hon Melinda Jane Pavey, Minister for Water, Property and Housing.

We have a business that has been operating in the same location for 48 years. Our property and business (leasehold interest) is being acquired by NSW government for the Burwood North Metro station. We've been told by Sydney Metro that we need to vacate our florist shop by 30th June 2021, which is now less than four weeks away.

However our claim for compensation still has not been dealt with by Sydney Metro and the Valuer General. This leaves us with a great deal of uncertainty about our future. We have nowhere to go, and have no means to support our family next month. This is terribly unfair, and shouldn't be happening. The NSW government has a lot to answer for. We shouldn't be evicted and our entire shop fit-out and life's work demolished and no compensation has even been issued.

Landowners, and leasehold owners shouldn't be evicted before the valuer general even comes back with a determination. We understand that most of the matters before the valuer general haven't been resolved, and yet Sydney Metro are pushing ahead with the forced eviction of us business owners. This is totally unacceptable.

We are appealing for an extension to continue to operate our business while the compensation is being finalized and issued. You cannot understand the pressure and stress this puts on a family to have their life's work taken away, no compensation agreed to, and a real lack of communication and empathy on behalf of the NSW Government, Sydney Metro and all concerned.

Please respond to our request for more time. We have appealed directly Sydney Metro been told that we cannot have an extension regardless of whether our compensation claim has been finalized or not. The legal advice we have been given is that this is not right, and Sydney Metro cannot evict us while the matter is still being dealt with by the Valuer General.

Please call me to discuss. The unfair and inhumane way we are being treated should be exposed in full. No communication, no empathy, harsh demands, no compensation, and forcing a business to close and our family to suffer as a result. This has been the most unbearable, and stressful time of our lives – all due to this incredibly archaic process.