

**INQUIRY INTO ACQUISITION OF LAND IN RELATION TO
MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 2 July 2021

Partially
Confidential

Submission – Inquiry, Acquisition of Land in relation to major transport projects

Date: 02-Jul-2021

To: Committee Members – Portfolio Committee No. 6

This submission does not relate to the acquisition of private land for transport projects – it relates to public community land – specifically, Cammeray Park, a Heritage Park which is subject to the Heritage Act 1977. Cammeray Park was reserved in 1869 by the visionary Mr William Tunks for the North Sydney community for sport and recreation purposes. This Public ‘community’ land has remained an area of public recreation and sport throughout its history until the 1960s when the then State government resumed over half the land in question to build the Warringah Freeway. The remaining land is under the care and control of North Sydney Council (NSC) for the community - council acts as the overseer of the land on behalf of this community. The Cammeray Golf Club leases part of this parkland from NSC for use as a golf course. Other uses for this heritage parkland include tennis, skateboarding, sportsground, croquet, and walking amongst other recreation purposes.

The item in the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference that this submission addresses is:

Item (vii): any other specific land acquisition that may give rise to community concerns about current government process

One of the major concerns for the people of this NSC community is TFNSW’s blatant and ongoing grab for our remaining, scarce public green space. As previously mentioned, Cammeray Park, the land on which the Cammeray Golf Course sits, was originally twice the size that it is now, but half was taken to build the Warringah Expressway.

Not satisfied with the original ‘theft’ of the community’s scarce green space, TFNSW now plans to take half of the remaining public land on which the golf course sits to widen and extend the Warringah Freeway to accommodate the Western Harbour Tunnel Beaches Link (whtbl) project, and to build its motorway ‘infrastructure’ (?).

In the whtbl Instrument of Approval – SSI-8863 document, Condition E101 states:

*The design and establishment of an altered Cammeray Golf course must provide an equivalent standard golf course or the provision of works to offset the loss in standards. This must be undertaken in consultation with and at no cost to **Cammeray Golf Club**.*

The land in question does not belong to the Golf Club. The land is under the care and control of NSC for the community - council acts as the overseer of the land on behalf of this community. The Golf Club leases the land from NSC.

Condition E101 above neglects to consider North Sydney Council’s RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES, therefore the RIGHTS of this community. The Approval fails to consider the imminent expiry of the lease of the Golf Course in 2026. Therefore, how can the Minister/State government contemplate Condition E101?

My questions are:

- (i) What plans does the Golf Club have for the future form of the Cammeray Golf Course? What input, if any, has North Sydney Council - hence the community- had to these plans put forward by the Golf Club for a reconfigured golf course?
- (ii) What are the environmental impacts of a reconfigured golf course – including the enormous loss of precious and mature trees – trees which act as the lungs of the community in terms of soaking up poisonous car emissions from the Warringah Freeway?

Submission – Inquiry, Acquisition of Land in relation to major transport projects

- (iii) Given the Golf Club only leases the community's land from North Sydney Council, and the expiry of this lease is imminent – it expires in 2026 – exactly what right does the Golf Club have to be negotiating with TFNSW/State Government in relation to the future of this land – land it doesn't own?
- (iv) The State government representative for this community is Premier Gladys Berejiklian, and our Federal government representative is Trent Zimmerman - both are patrons of the Golf Club. Has the Golf Club been given any favourable treatment due to their patronage?

Clearly, there has been an egregious lack of transparency and lack of community consultation in relation to the acquisition of this community's irreplaceable parkland.

A recent North Sydney Council brochure reports that North Sydney already has significantly less parkland per person than any northern Sydney council – even less than the City of Sydney.

It's the 21st century, the impact of climate change is upon us, yet TFNSW's total lack of vision sees it spending billions of dollars of public funds in building more and more roads and road tunnels which only serve to attract more and more polluting cars and buses - which are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, the people of Sydney and NSW for generations have been crying out for a decent public transport system - in the form of clean trains.

I look forward to the outcome of this inquiry and thank all members of the committee for their efforts to ensure transparency and accountability into TFNSW's obscene and ongoing grab of public and private land for road transport projects.

Sincerely,