

**Submission
No 6**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE ROZELLE INTERCHANGE

Organisation: Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce

Date Received: 17 March 2024

The Director,
Ms Rhia Victorino,
Director Committees,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Re: Upper House - Inquiry into the impact of the Rozelle Interchange

17 March 2024

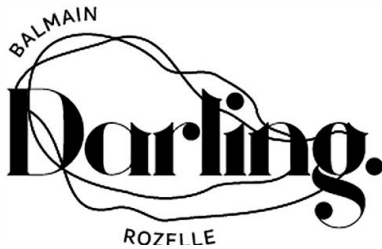
Dear Ms Victorino,

The Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce, operates in the suburbs of Balmain East, Rozelle Balmain and Lilyfield areas , which can be seen from the attached footprint map, have been directly impacted by the construction and, now, the opening of the Rozelle Interchange. The Chamber has over 150 for local business members many of whom are both business operators and residents.

There is no doubt the opening of the Rozelle Interchange has had a negative impact on both businesses and residents. The problems along Victoria Road and the Western Distributor and the difficulties in entering and exiting the local area have been well documented and reported in the media. The chamber has been particularly concerned about the impact of the opening on local businesses.

To that end, members have been surveyed, and their feedback, combined with other feedback from business, is summarised below.:

- The opening of the Rozelle Interchange has reduced customer traffic. Customers are avoiding the area due to the perceived traffic congestion.
- The reduction in customer traffic has extended to the weekends, to add to the traffic congestion experienced on weekdays.
- The negative media attention has impacted trading conditions. The name 'Rozelle' represented in the media has had a negative effect. There are reasonable grounds to conclude there is ongoing reputational damage for the area.
- Traffic conditions have impacted deliveries too, and from businesses. Longer delivery times impact both costs and customer relationships.
- Local residents, customers and businesses have attempted to adapt their travel behaviour to avoid entering/leaving the area during peak times. However, this is not always feasible and definitely not a long-term solution.
- Staff of local businesses have been negatively impacted as it takes them longer to get to and from work. This situation represents a threat to the ability of local businesses to attract and retain staff. The majority of people who work locally do not live locally.
- Notwithstanding, there has been some improvement to traffic congestion from January 2024, the negative impacts on the local area are persisting. Consequently, it is the Chamber's view changes to date have not been sufficient to remediate the negative impacts on the local area. Furthermore, the Chamber remains concerned about what



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might happen when the West Harbour crossing is added to the mix. A repeat of recent events will not only be significantly problematic for the local area, it will again result in an inequitable share of the cost of change being placed on the local community.

We give approval for this submission to be posted publicly but we would like to be notified when it is available.

Yours faithfully,

Vice President
Belinda Daly
Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Belinda Daly, Vice President

Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce Local Area

