

Submission
No 57

**INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT
ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

OTHER :

Time and how it impacts on Volunteers, Education, Artists/Performers/Musicians, Disability.

It is acknowledged by Transport NSW that the area marked in Red has the slowest transport times. **Although in the past this was not so.** Berala had a direct line that reached central in 22 minutes starting in 1930.

This loss of time impacts on Volunteers, Education, Health, Artists/Performers/Musicians, Disability

1. Volunteers

Living in Berala- retired. I volunteer as a guide along with others at Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (catering to an increasing demand from tourists and others). Previously my travel time from Berala was 22 minutes one way. Now it is 49 minutes (including waiting time for connecting trains and walking across to platforms). In total to Circular Quay and back it takes me One hour and forty -five minutes (on a good day). I lose one hour and one minute every time I catch the train as a result of lack of a synchronised trains between Berala and Lidcombe compounded by slower trains at peak at Lidcombe. And a repeat pattern to get home.

I am not alone. – there are retired people in the suburbs marked in red (Berala , Birrong Regents Park Yagoona) who volunteer at The Art Gallery NSW, The Maritimes Museum, State Library and other places that rely on volunteers. Volunteers contribute hours of work which makes the institutions as good as they are but these institutions are often understaffed by volunteers because travel takes so long and makes Volunteers unavailable at short notice.

B. Education

Students in areas marked in red (meaning longer travel times as shown by NSW Transports own map attend Selective High Schools (for instance 12.7% of total students living just in Berala attend a selective high school). Selective students attend schools like Sydney Boys, Sydney Girls, Sefton, even Chatswood and this pattern is repeated in Regents Park 10%, Birrong, Yagoona. However, they are subjected to longer travel times than their peers than say students living in Epping attending selective schools, as Epping students have the choice of Rail or Metro.

This extra waste of time travelling means they can not engage in as many extracurricular activities or exercise - compounding their disadvantage.

The following incident highlights the frustration and disadvantage experienced by students who have to travel longer hours.

Students from Sefton High School were selected to attend a prestigious event at the NSW State Library. In order to get there on time on time they needed to travel in peak time which incurred an additional cost. I complained to Transport NSW about the cost and travel time. They in response sent a man to help manage the students getting on and off trains. This was not at all helpful – especially when he tried to make the students stand before they arrived at

Central station (some of the students had never been on a train and did not know to brace themselves).

The time it took to travel from Sefton Station to the city with waiting times included on various platforms was two hours and twenty minutes one way.

At the library we had to miss recess and go straight to the special event. We intended to go to Sydney Royal Botanic Garden for lunch and view some of the features we learnt about in the State Library. Time constraint only allowed us to quickly eat and leave for the station – no leisurely stroll through the gardens for us, unlike other schools there.

Incidentally travel back was even longer and we were late anyway.

This time constraint in travel results in inequity of education and experience for students – and it can certainly be extended to TAFE and University students.

How are students from Sefton, Birrong High Schools going to participate in extra -curricular activities? Will there be buses after school for them?

Artists/ Performers/ Musicians

I noted a number of musicians carrying instruments on a latenight train from the Opera House. The instruments where bulky and cumbersome – not made for getting on and off trains. The train arrived at Lidcombe just before midnight. I thought how in the future will musician actors etc get to suburbs like Berala, Yagoona Birrong?

Disability

People with disabilities find it difficult and time consuming to change trains The only way some people say on motor scooters will be able to travel is by car I the future.

Enviroment

People from Berala, Regents Park, Birrong and Yagoona often travel by car to Lidcombe station to access a quicker train service. This leads to congestion in Lidcombe both for the commuters and people wishing to access other facilities in Lidcombe. It increases the level of pollution and in many cases travel time as parents rush backward and forward dropping children and spouses off.

Don't make things worse. Fix the problems created. Support the people who live in these suburbs.