

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE ROZELLE
INTERCHANGE**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 March 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear The Hon. Faerhmann, chair of the committee,

My name is _____ a resident that regularly uses Victoria Road and the Rozelle Interchange. The purpose of my submission is to bring to light the errors, missed opportunities and the negative consequences that this now wicked problem has brought to our 'world-class' city that is in dire need of actual long term sustainable planning.

Firstly - on the ground impact. Since the Rozelle Interchange opened, residents not only have had to endure the initial adjustments, disruption to traffic has continued week on week. Travelling on Victoria road has added 15-20 mins to my trip. I'm burning 15% more fuel. The green traffic light is on for a few seconds and the red light takes about a whole minute. The stop start rhythm of traffic has gotten worse, and as a result I'm burning more fuel. I don't believe this aligns with global and local sustainability initiatives, it certainly doesn't align with mine. Due to poor signage, the road gets blocked with drivers attempting to reverse out thinking they'll be charged toll (9 March, there were four cars that were at a standstill near the entrance) - I don't blame these drivers to be clear, I blame the poor road design, planning and signage.

Secondly - catastrophic failure of long term urban planning. My view is that the government has prioritised short term benefits, that being toll roads and short term expanded motor vehicle capacity, at a time where the city is groaning under the pressure of population growth and struggling with cost of living pressures. Why did we build road infrastructure that won't alleviate Victoria Road congestion a few years time. I don't doubt the government is aware of the principle of induced demand. Providing additional road infrastructure for extremely inefficient car transport will only solve congestion for a short time before congestion return to previous levels. Since the cost of the project has ballooned to \$21B, it could've funded multiple public transport projects where we could've had light rail/trains/buses that moved more people per hour compared to one car (carrying five passengers) per person AND take the pressure off Victoria Road. This seems obvious.

I would like conversations and documents involving Transurban be made public, it would be interesting to know if the government only prioritised revenue generation in this project.

Thirdly - actually build to accommodate future growth (don't just say it). As mentioned above, imagine an innovative public transport solution, say an underground (or overground) light rail running along Victoria road that moves 450x more passengers than individual cars per hour. Imagine the reductions in CO2 emissions, the reduction in air and noise pollution from fuel burnt and car tire shavings. Imagine the scaled up capacity of Victoria road thanks to this solution. Furthermore, imagine Victoria road transformed into a pedestrian friendly grand avenue with clean public transport and thriving communities from Ryde and Gladesville all the way to Rozelle and Balmain that will sustain for centuries.

To summarise, the worsening traffic leads to increased fuel costs on everyone going against sustainability goals. If we answered the problem correctly from the start, we would be on our way to creating a vastly different outcome - one that is extremely more efficient, sustainable and future proof.

So I leave this to you in the hopes that the right decisions are made for the betterment of our collective futures.