

**Submission
No 85**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE ROZELLE INTERCHANGE

Name: Howard Lovatt

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Dear Committee,

Thank you for enquiring into the interchange.

I live in Balmain and having now lived with the interchange I can categorically state that the traffic is much worse than before for every journey I take outside of Balmain and for some journeys in Balmain (those that go close to Victoria Rd gridlock).

The problem for bus journeys is that parts of Balmain/Rozelle gridlock now. Thus preventing busses getting in or out! My 5 minute bus trip to the city took 20 minutes one morning! My bus trip to the ferry is delayed because there are no busses!

The problems for car drivers in Balmain and Rozelle are:

1. That the left lane on Victoria Rd is now only for left turns off Victoria Rd, where before you could turn left or go straight on and it was shared with busses.
2. There is now only one lane onto the ANZAC bridge which also has one car at a time lights; before there were two and no lights.
3. There is now a shared lane for ANZAC bridge and City West link that stacks back and therefore gridlocks; before there was two dedicated lanes for City West link for much further down Victoria Rd.

As an example the other morning it took 15 minutes from Evans St to The Crescent. That journey that used to take less than 5 minutes. Three times worse than before!

The whole motivation for the interchange seems to be to make money from tolls, not to improve traffic flow. For example making the left lane of Victoria Rd left turn only. I hope the committee will examine why traffic studies did not anticipate such a debacle or if the studies were just a white wash so that tolls could be collected? Were there studies that showed traffic improvements at all - why are they so wrong? Are the only proper studies on toll collection? Were the studies on toll collection accurate - unlike the traffic studies?

I hope the committee agrees with me that it is a ridiculous amount of money to spend to make the traffic worse! I hope the committee recommends changing the roads back to how they were before. In particular the left lane on Victoria road and the lanes going onto the ANZAC bridge and City West link.

Thank you for your consideration,

— Howard