

Submission
No 109

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have been a resident of Earlwood for most of my life. I love the area and I do not want to see it ruined because of a failure of government at both Commonwealth and State levels to be responsible in relation to the provision of housing and the increasing need for more housing with the growing population, particularly in Sydney. Mr Minns' and the State Government's proposal is a quick fix that will cost the State Government the least amount of time, effort and money and unfortunately my area and surrounding areas are the ones in the firing line. I have a message for Mr Minns and the State Government, these areas are already full. Earlwood already has medium density housing in its main street and units built along the main street outside the main shopping district and large villa and townhouse complexes in surrounding streets. Canterbury, Campsie, Marrickville, Wollri Creek, Rockdale, Kogarah, Riverwood to name a few all have high density housing. Wollri Creek is fairly close to where I live it is an eye sore and an unattractive residential development. Earlwood does not have a train station, I take on board that we are serviced by stations at Tempe and Bardwell Park. There are no buses that run to either of these stations through Earlwood so if you don't live close by or you have a mobility issue you drive. As an example the traffic in our area means that a trip in the morning to get to work should take me no more than 2 to 3 minutes to drive to the station. Sometimes I cannot drive out of my driveway as the traffic is banked up and a trip that should not be very long can take up to 15 minutes or more. In addition, there is insufficient parking at the station it is gone by 7.30 in the morning and you are having to find parking sometimes a 10 minute walk away from the station, that parking is also now being eaten up by commuters. In addition, areas around the station have been made four hour zones for parking, that doesn't make it any easier for commuters. A lot of people travel from suburbs not close to Earlwood/Tempe to use the trains. Weekends the traffic is the same, at a standstill through the main sections of Earlwood. If the State Government thinks that building medium density housing close to transport means that people will not be using motor vehicles they are wrong as residents will still have motor vehicles that they will use therefore even more congestion on the roads. Further stresses will be placed on roads, transport, hospitals, schools, medical facilities to name a few. There is no mention of any further funding for infrastructure to keep up with the extra number of people coming into the area and the increased demand on facilities. I believe that will be overlooked. Trains for example are sardine cans at peak times already and if there is a problem on the line you cannot get on a train by the time it reaches the stations close to the city. More people in the area are only going to exacerbate all of the issues we currently have. Basically, you cannot just keep putting people in areas that are full. If the Government were serious about fixing the problem of housing I would respectfully suggest that they need to look outside the square including: Immigration The current Commonwealth Government has been irresponsible in relation to its immigration policy. If we do not already have enough housing for people already living in Australia, why would you assume that bringing huge numbers of immigrants into Australia is going to make the problem go away. It isn't, it puts further stresses on resources that are already stretched and houses are not going to suddenly pop up to house those arriving in Australia. Shelter and housing is a basic need for living, it now seems to be becoming a luxury and that should never have been allowed to happen. I have read in the news that there have been extremely large numbers of immigrants coming to Sydney and Melbourne. You just cannot allow that to keep happening when cities are already bursting, in fact one headline read that Sydney is bursting. The State and Federal Governments need to both look at immigration, you cannot just keep jamming more and more people in cities with the attitude everything will be alright, its wrong to do this to us. The problem is the Government is now looking for a quick fix but there isn't one. Housing There is plenty of land on the outside of Sydney. Why not consider satellite cities being built on the fringes of Sydney on the land that is available. These areas would grow to have their own facilities and industry and there is plenty of room for housing not only just now but for the future. Its probably not an option that the State Government would want as it would mean more planning for the future and cost them more to provide facilities. Perhaps also look at the levels of foreign investment and how they are impacting the properties available for housing the public and

changing the laws in relation to foreign investment of residential properties in Australia. Governments at all levels are not listening to the general public. What if I lose my home because of the rezoning. Where do I go then? How is that fair. Its fine for politicians to decide these things, they are not affected by them. Ministers should start taking more notice of the public and their opinions. Letters to the editor in the newspaper make it quite clear about how people feel about the number of immigrants arriving in Australia when we are facing such a housing shortage, I am constantly reading how everyone cannot believe what has been allowed to occur and the stupidity of this decision. The same goes for the rezoning of areas in Sydney why would anyone think that is a good idea to just keep putting more and more people in areas that are jammed to capacity. It makes no sense. Picking areas because of their location close to buses and trains and expecting it all to work out is ridiculous, there are a whole range of issues that need to be considered including how our standard and quality of life will be affected. Sadly I don't believe this has been considered by anyone. There is no easy answer to the housing crisis, and I feel this rezoning is a knee jerk reaction and a quick fix. It's not the answer and you can't just think that piling more and more people closer to the city just because there is some level of transport in these areas is okay and no consideration is given to the people already living in the areas to be rezoned who have worked and continue to work hard to keep their homes and have lived in their communities for a long time. What the Government is proposing does matter to us as it impacts us and our quality of life. Governments need to look more towards the future. Australian Governments tend to think about now and not ahead and what is best for the future as our population will keep growing. Their solution with the rezoning means for those of us living in these areas a lesser quality and standard of living in relation to transport and other facilities and amenities and that is not right. I really do believe more consideration should be given to satellite cities otherwise the problems we currently have will continue. If Sydney is already bursting at the seams the Governments current proposal is not going to make things any better for anyone.