



23 August 2006

Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel

THIRD REPORT INQUIRY INTO THE LANE COVE TUNNEL

Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC, Chairman of the NSW Parliament's Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel, has announced that the Committee's third and final Report of the Joint Select Committee has been tabled today.

"This Report focuses on the Lane Cove Tunnel and examines the issues that have arisen throughout the project's design, exhibition and construction. The Committee highlights the need for more comprehensive community information about the surface road changes that will take effect once the Lane Cove Tunnel opens. We have recommended that the Government ensure that the community are fully aware of the changes to the surface streets, particularly to Epping Road, before the tunnel opens." Reverend Nile explained.

"The Committee has also recommended careful monitoring of the road conditions to ensure that the surface streets, once narrowed, can meet the ongoing traffic demand. We suggest, too, that for future tunnel projects it may help reduce confusion if major road changes are delayed for a reasonable time after the tunnel is opened," he added.

"The Committee's First and Second Reports, tabled in February and May of this year, captured the dissatisfaction of the community over the Cross City Tunnel project and made recommendations to immediately address the disruption on the surface streets of central Sydney, and to ensure that future infrastructure projects delivered by Public Private Partnership arrangements are not similarly compromised."

"This final Report notes that many of the concerns raised in the First and Second Reports in relation to the Government's engagement in Public Private Partnerships remain relevant in the case of the Lane Cove tunnel project. However, the Committee believes that the community supports the project that was approved following the Environmental Impact Assessment process."

"Throughout this Inquiry, the Committee heard that the effect of unfiltered emissions from the Lane Cove Tunnel's ventilation stacks on the health of the surrounding community is a continuing and serious concern for some sections of the community. To address this

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concern, the Committee has made a number of recommendations on the issue of air quality.” Reverend Nile said.

“Finally, I wish to express my disappointment and concern over the leak of the Committee’s report that occurred earlier this week.” Reverend Nile added. “The leaking of reports can lead to distortion of the Committee’s recommendations and does not contribute to meaningful public discussion of the issue. The inaccurate reporting of private Committee deliberations also undermines the proper functioning of the Committee process.”

The Joint Select Committee membership is Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC (CDP) [Chairman], the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC (ALP), the Hon Greg Pearce MLC (Lib), Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC (Greens), Mr Michael Daley MP (ALP), Mr Andrew Constance MP (Lib), Mr Steven Pringle MP (Lib) and Ms Kristina Keneally MP (ALP).

All three Reports of the Committee, including submissions, transcripts of evidence and the terms of reference are available from the Committee’s website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/crosscitytunnel.

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