

CBD and South East Light rail project

In the broad, I endorse the EIS proposals. My concern is with two ancillary aspects:

(1) I object to the lack of an integrated approach to transport management - specifically the lack of a clear proposal for car parking in connection with events at the SCG/Allianz Stadium.

On page 9-32, the EIS states that “A traffic and transport services strategy for Moore Park was developed by Parsons Brinckerhoff (2013) with the purpose of providing an integrated transport master plan for the precinct for both event and regular transport operations.” There is little evidence of this in the EIS.

Figure 9.6 refers to “Moore Park Plaza Underground Car Park (1,600 spaces – 2 levels) on the site of the existing members car park next to Allianz Stadium. However, I can find no discussion of this in the EIS.

The most logical place for a car park is underneath the playing fields north of Sydney Boys High School. This would be close to the Moore Park light rail stop and so be consistent with the statement on page 3-13 that “Access to light rail stops would need to cater for all (modes (including pedestrians, cyclists, bus, heavy rail, light rail and car).” During the week, it would enable commuters who might otherwise drive into the city to park their cars and use the light rail to make their way to work.

An underground car park north of Sydney Boys High School is superior to two other parking alternatives in respect of events at the SCG/Allianz Stadium:

1. Parking for events at the two Stadiums is currently on the grass on the northern section of Moore Park East. Egress is confined to Driver Avenue and thence into Moore Park Road. This creates traffic mayhem after events, as the traffic flow in Driver Avenue blends cars leaving Moore Park and the SCG Members’ Car Park and then normal traffic travelling west in Moore Park Road.

The use of Moore Park East for car parking also means that the local community is deprived of meaningful use of this parkland, as the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust is naturally unwilling to spend money on remediating this area, given the frequency with which it is used for parking. The parkland is surrounded by trees and has a cricket pitch in the middle, and so is potentially a delightful village green which – in the absence of car parking – would be available for use by the local community, as well as for school and club cricket and football matches.

2. An underground car park on the site of the existing members car park next to Allianz Stadium, as in Figure 9.6, would certainly be superior to the use of Moore Park East as it would free up this parkland for remediation and use by the local community. However, it would be inferior to an underground car

park underneath the playing fields next to Sydney Boys High School, for two reasons:

- (a) It would be remote from the Moore Park light rail stop and so not likely to be used by light rail commuters during the week. This would obviously impair the economics of constructing such a car park.
- (b) Traffic flows from Driver Avenue into Moore Park Road after events would still be exceptionally heavy.

It would be more conducive to smooth egress from SCG/Allianz Stadium area if people were to walk a bit further to their cars and then drive away using South Dowling Street and Anzac Parade – two major road arteries. This would be far less chaotic than using the more constricted Moore Park Road with its busy intersection with Anzac Parade/Flinders Street.

(2) I object to the proposal that the current major event bus hub at Moore Park be relocated north of the existing AFL training field between the bus roadway and Kippax Lake.

I have outlined my concerns at alienation of Moore Park East parklands for car parking, concerns which are shared by many others in the local community. This proposal involves a further alienation of this area, and is completely unacceptable.

At present, the area is used by the Eastern Suburbs Roosters as a training area. The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust has made significant improvements to the surface, and while the Roosters have first claim to it, it is not fenced off and so is available to the local community at other times. This proposal would deny the community use of this area.

The EIS states that “The current major event bus hub at Moore Park is required to be relocated to facilitate the construction of a light rail stop in its place.” Why is it required? The stop is a considerable distance from the existing hub – not “in its place”. There is simply no need to relocate the hub as a permanent measure and so alienate a large slice of parkland.

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