

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Russell Hand](#); [Dominic Perrottet](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: 242-244 Beecroft Road, Epping (SSD-8784) – Submissions Report
Date: Friday, 3 January 2020 12:41:17 PM

In my submission, I made the point that this land is on the planned route of the Parramatta to Chatswood heavy rail line that was meant to have been opened last year. Based on population growth estimates that have since been exceeded, this line was intended to relieve pressure on the existing corridor between Parramatta and the CBD. This land should be retained in public ownership as a public transport corridor against the day when Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 is extended from Carlingford to Epping to complete the circle of the heavy and light rail network in north-west Sydney. Transport for NSW's Future Transport Strategy 2056 sees Epping being connected to Parramatta by the same network as serves the connection between Epping and Chatswood. This submitted issue was ignored in the response from Landcom to your department, dated "November 2019". Was this an over-sight or could it have been deliberate?

Since then, letters, both dated 16th December, have been received by your department from—

(a) Sydney Metro saying: "Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has delegated its rail authority functions in relation to the Sydney Metro Northwest rail corridor to Sydney Metro" <https://tinyurl.com/vate5ot> and Sydney Metro's interest can be protected by DA conditions; and

(b) Transport for NSW explaining that since 1st December, Roads and Maritime Services has become Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and TfNSW's interest is confined to the deceleration lane and double marked lanes <https://tinyurl.com/rq9x5rg>.

Apparently "rail authority functions" do not extend to **light** rail authority functions. According to <http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au>, Parramattalight Rail is a project of TfNSW and "*By 2026, around 28,000 people will use Parramatta Light Rail every day and an estimated 130,000 people will be living within walking distance of light rail stops.*" How many more people will use the service if it is linked to the rest of the rail network at both ends of its length and is thereby attractive to passengers moving in both directions in journeys to their daytime activities?

Despite the hope that traffic studies would find solutions or improvement to traffic congestion in Carlingford Road/Beecroft Road, the congestion continues unabated and without any sign of relief, thanks to—

- (a) the lack of distance tolling on the M2;
- (b) expansion of residential development beyond that foreshadowed in the planning for the Epping Urban Activation Precinct;

- (c) copious private car parking in Macquarie Park; and
- (d) the proposed additional lane on Epping Bridge only being for the benefit of westbound traffic,

The only possible alleviation to the problem involves increased public transport use.

Parramatta Light Rail stage 1 will only realise its potential when the services in both directions are continued beyond Carlingford station to connect to Metro northwest and the T9 and Central Coast lines at Epping. Until then, those attending Macquarie University or working in Macquarie Park and living in the new residences to be built along the existing T6 line will commute by catching a tram to Carlingford, a bus to Epping and a metro to Macquarie Park. Or they will use their own car.

With the merger of Roads and Maritime and Transport for NSW as recently as 1st December 2019, it may not be surprising that TfNSW does not realise light rail should be considered as part of its responsibilities when it comes to keeping public transport corridors open. Having acquired this property for a (metro) rail corridor, until the public transport use has been completely exploited, the Government should not be considering the surrender of the land to yet more residential development.



On Wed, 27 Nov 2019 at 11:03, no-reply@majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au <no-reply@majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

The Department has received a response to the issues raised in submissions for the 242-244 Beecroft Road, Epping. You can access this document on the Major Projects Website.

The Department will now commence its assessment having regard to the issues raised in submissions and the proponents response.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Russell Hand on 82751313 /at russell.hand@planning.nsw.gov.au.