

Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 (PLRS2) – Submission

**Vince & Janine Cusumano
5 Taylor Ave
Melrose Park (Ryde LGA)**

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We write to you as concerned residents at Taylor Ave Melrose Park (Ryde LGA) who will be directly affected by this project and the Melrose Park North and South developments which this project, by being approved and built will allow the developers to increase the size of their development by 40%.

Our primary concern with the Planning Proposal (PP) and Environment Impact Statement (EIS) relate to the specific location of the Melrose Park to Wentworth Point bridge crossing. We are members of the Melrose Park Residents Action Group (MPRAG) and have made numerous submissions to Parramatta Council in relation to these developments as well as contributing to the submissions made by MPRAG members on the Light Rail project.

We are unsure, with current information provided, of the benefits, value and patronage for the PLRS2 as an alternative means of public transportation for residents east of the proposed Melrose Park to Wentworth Point Bridge (Bridge), including i.e. those residents in Melrose Park (Ryde LGA).

The proposed route seems to be a route to nowhere and alternative and existing transport options such as ferry, heavy rail, bus and road, if properly implemented would provide the capacity and services required.

The choice of future public transport, we believe we would only use the bridge crossing infrequently for events at Sydney Olympic Park.(SOP).However, we are aware of the concerns and political and developer promises made to the residents in Wentworth Point and recognise the value of the PLRS2, for those residents in Wentworth Point to travel to and from the Sydney and Parramatta CBD's. However, we would have deep concerns and challenge any attempts to make the bridge open to private or public cars (e.g., taxis or ride share) and would request legislation to prevent future governments from doing so.

Our strong preference that we will continue to fight for is for the bridge to be located further to the west of both the bridge locations in Chapter 2, Maps 4 & Chapter 5 Figure 5.6. of the EIS. Our preference is to locate the Bridge to the west of the current public amenities block and boat ramp.

In regard to the proposed closure of the Wharf Rd boat ramp for an extended period during construction of the bridge, noted in differing reports as being up to 3 years would have dire consequences for trailer boat users in Western Sydney.

The Wharf Rd boat ramp is the first available trailer boat launching facility on the western end of the Parramatta River and as such is used by persons in our local area as well as many thousands of boat owners in Western Sydney. A closure of this ramp would mean that added pressure would be placed on ramp facilities to the east of Wharf Rd – see table below.

With the removal of Wharf Rd ramp, the capacity of the remaining ramps will be exceeded. If you have ever been to a crowded boat ramp at peak times, the incidence of conflict and argument over parking and access can be quite high Overflowing carparks and car and boat trailers are then parked in adjoining residential streets causing further conflict. The removal of Wharf Rd will cause many

problems, especially at times such as New Year's Eve, Australia Day and warm sunny summer weekends. At these times, cars and boat trailer parking extends up Wharf Rd. With this facility out of action for three years the added pressure on the other Parramatta River ramps will be astounding.

Ramp Location	Car and boat trailer parking	Access
Wharf Rd, Melrose Park	80+	Good – Largest capacity parking on the Parramatta River
Rhodes Point, Rhodes	12	Poor – small facility with little capacity
Kissing Point Park, Putney	35	Fair - high usage means long waits at peak times to access ramp
Bayview Park, Concord	40	Poor – not suitable for larger boats
Wymston Parade, Abbotsford	4	Poor – only for launching dinghies
Taplin Park, Drummoyne	50	Good – high usage means long waits at peak times to access ramp

Has any discussion been made with boat owners in Western Sydney? Those boat users that I have spoken to at this facility have no idea about the proposed extended closure of the ramp. This being the case, **the exhibition period should be extended over the summer months when the ramp usage is at its highest level and seek feedback from boat owners using this facility. As well, large notices showing the proposed route and stating that:**

THIS FACILITY WILL BE CLOSED FOR THREE YEARS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Should be displayed at the ramp and carpark.

This proposed Light Rail Stage 2 Bridge will allow the developers to exceed the capacity for these sites, it will cause the closure of the boat ramp facility causing chaos and angst from boat owners and residents and will be a route to nowhere that will serve no real transport connection options.

We object to the project, the proposed route and urge a rethink on the matter.

Vince & Janine Cusumano
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Melrose Park