

Date: 14th December 2022

Charles Marendy

151 Wharf Road,

Melrose Park NSW 2114

Attn: Parramatta Light Rail

We refer to the Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement.

We note that the proposed route shows the light rail progressing along Waratah Street, Ermington and turning sharply onto Wharf Road, Melrose Park where it will be necessary to acquire properties to ensure the light rail can pass on the eastern side of transmission lines across the river.

We note the following:

- The properties are being acquired to allow the light rail to pass around the transmission tower located on the corner of Waratah Street and Wharf Rd;
- The cost of acquiring up to 6 properties will exceed \$10M; and,
- There will be an avoidable and onerous impact on the lives of 6 families.

We understand that there is a better alternative that is being explored by Parramatta Light Rail.

This alternative involves moving the transmission tower to allow the light rail to pass more directly through the carpark before crossing the river.

We understand this route will avoid the need to compulsorily acquire properties and will move the light rail slightly closer to the river, away from homes.

We support this initiative.

There are a number of advantages to this option. Some of these advantages include:

Cost Savings. The cost of relocating the transmission tower will be cheaper than buying 6 houses. The subject transmission tower redirects the power lines from running north-south across the Parramatta River to east-west along the Parramatta River foreshore. In effect, the transmission tower sits at the corner of a dogleg. Repositioning the transmission tower effectively straightens the dogleg. The existing transmission lines can be simply swung across to the new location. The process does not require running new power lines across the river, the existing lines need only be swung into the new position and shortened. The cost of this undertaken is substantially cheaper than acquiring homes.

No property acquisitions. The route for the light rail can then be repositioned so as to avoid property acquisitions.

Avoidable social disruption and upheaval. The proposed route for the Parramatta Light Rail takes the light rail along public land beside the Parramatta River for a distance of 250m before it reaches Wharf Rd. It is untenable that the public land is left unaffected while families are turfed from their homes.

The proposed route of the light rail **MUST** be reconsidered. **We support the option being considered of the relocating the transmission tower and adjustment of the route so that houses located at the end of Wharf Road are left unaffected.**

Yours Sincerely

Charles Marendy