

Response to changes to CSELR modifications.

I object to the CSELR project and in particular the modifications announced.

- There has been no consultation with NSW taxpayers regarding the route. All touted “consultation” has been a sham to merely tick the boxes. Taxpayers and residents have been treated as superfluous to the process and all consultation has been merely lip service. Community forums have not reported back with information promised and “answers” provided by TfNSW are a disgusting joke.
- Transparency has been severely lacking in the entire process, bordering on corruption. The government has refused to release the business case to prove the credibility of the project. An excessive amount of funds in both legal fees and bureaucratic time has been spent to hide information from the public and MPs. Amounts of \$800,000 and \$500,000 have been put forward. (The fact the modifications are required to make the project viable makes a mockery of the minister’s insistence the initial project was beneficial).
- The new length of 67 metres for the tram length is absurd. This means the project is more suited to heavy rail and definitely should not be on suburban streets amongst pedestrians, cars and bikes. Vehicles this length put lives at risk.
- Traffic will be impacted heavily with the new tram length possibly blocking multiple intersections at times and creating a flow on effect with traffic delayed due to the length of time the vehicles will take to clear intersections. There has been no alternate information released regarding traffic impacts and plans. This cannot be done post construction and the government is derelict to attempt to do so.
- Trams of 67 metres will create excessive noise and disruption to the residents along the route. The noise that will be created is well in excess of current. Measurement on Devonshire St was also taken near a pub and is invalid. To state there will be “minor increases” in noise is unsatisfactorily lacking in any detail or specific enough to enable an assessment to be made of the impacts.
- In an attempt to make the project viable, taxpayers are being forced to utilise light rail (even when it is not suitable or slower), through the cancellation of appropriate and efficient bus services.
- The new tram length will also now mean excessively long platforms to deal with the new carriage length. This will adversely impact all suburbs that will now need to deal with this. This includes more encroachment on Centennial Parklands, Ward Park and High Cross Park.
- The new and initial plan will result in the loss of mature trees and create a denuded landscape.
- The reduction in stops will mean the route through the CBD is not effective.
- The project will result in reduced public transport capacity overall. Transport professionals who have questioned the government figures have been ignored.
- There will be a severe disruption of cycleways.
- Why is there a separate walkway and bridge being built from Moore Park?

- The project has already resulted in a loss of housing that has had major impact on the residents involved but will deliver little benefit to taxpayers generally.
- Parking is currently at a premium and heavy rail extensions should be favoured over a cheap and ineffective light rail solution that will place further pressures on roads. The light rail will not match current capacity and therefore cannot absorb any car journeys; hence it will actually force further workers into cars.

This project is not part of an integrated transport plan and system. This is unacceptable and this was commented on during an internal government review. This has not been addressed.

To date the concerns of taxpayers and transport professionals have continued to be ignored and have not been adequately addressed by the government. The previous EIS ignored requests for changes and did not adequately answer taxpayer concerns.

These changes have not been substantiated and there is no means to substantiate them due to hidden information. The increased costs put forward means the project must be further scrutinised to uncover the real agenda and the cost-benefits of the project.

Please note I also take exception to the introduction of these changes with such a short time for response, and to have the response required during the Christmas period is truly unacceptable. This points to a government trying to hide as much as it can and shut down any dissent. This is not an example of a healthy representative democracy.

Regards

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17 December 2014