

Dear Sir

Re: EASTERN SUBURBS LIGHT RAIL MODIFICATION

First we have the costly footbridge over Anzac Road (that “unwanted “bridge to nowhere”) eating up masses of Moore Park open space. Now we have the amended scheme for the Eastern Suburbs Light Rail hacking off a further large chunk of Centennial Park and removing the recently completed cycle path.

I am a supporter of a light rail. But this scheme is going off the rails fast. How can Royal Randwick Racecourse dictate that it doesn’t want to accommodate the track on its side of Alison Road when it is the major beneficiary and justification for the service in the first place?

If Coogee has to lose most of its bus services as the quid pro quo for getting the rail line, how can the racecourse get away with arguing that the proposed station will compromise its bus parking area? Doh! Isn’t the rail supposed to supplant the need for buses and cars. Talk about “cake and eat it”. The amendment should be quashed.

The proposed shifting of the Randwick Interchange to the western side of High Cross Park also represents a failure of vision. Why not use the large forecourt of the Prince of Wales Hospital on the corner of High Street and Belmore Road for this purpose. The hospital is also a major justification and beneficiary of the rail line and, like the racecourse, is already owned by the Government. Sensitively designed it would not detract from these heritage buildings.

Stop seeing the alienation of limited open space as the soft option when considering infrastructure projects. There’s little enough of it already.

Yours faithfully

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Coogee