

10/12/2013

Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Re CSLER – response to Environmental Impact Statement

I do not agree with the CBD and South East Light Rail (CSLER) proposal as described in the Environmental Impact Statement (dated November 2013) document.

My concerns are summarised below:

1. Parking

Surry Hills already has serious parking issues. As a resident of Nickson Street, the removal of parking along Devonshire street will be detrimental to residents and businesses in the area. I require my car for my job. There seems little point allocating parking permits, if there is no reasonable space for residents to park.

2. Traffic problems

There does not seem to be a solution for the traffic problems that will be caused by the light rail. Peak hour traffic is already hard enough in the area. And there are people, who like myself, require their cars for their actual jobs. In relation to my own situation, access in and out of Nickson Street will be compromised, and I would be significantly impacted getting to and from work with the current recommendations.

3. Parklands and Trees

I am concerned about the number of large historic trees that will be removed along the route and in the parklands. There will also be the loss of the parklands both during and after construction. As a resident, and a dog owner, the importance of greenery in Surry Hills is hugely important.

4. Noise

I understand that the LRV's are 50% longer than the LRV's on the existing Inner West Route, and that the acceptable noise levels have also been changed by the State Government to match those of the heavy rail. Surry Hills is a residential area. This seems absurd, particularly if the proposed LRV's are running at night time, general residential noise restrictions should apply.

5. Local Businesses

I love my area because of the fabulous restaurants and cafes, which are now under threat as they (e.g. Bourke Street Bakery, a Surry Hills Institution) would unlikely survive the duration of the lengthy construction.

Although there is an associated cost, I believe there are vastly superior alternative routes, which have already been identified (Forveaux and Devonshire sub-surface). Solutions which will have a much less of an impact on the residents and businesses in Surry Hills while still allowing the benefits of the light rail. Cost should only be one factor in making a long-term decision like the CSELR.

In summary, if the CSELR project is to proceed, I request that all possible Surry Hills routes be reviewed and supported with a cost benefit report that is available to the public. A report that demonstrates the preferred route and how it is suitable for the spine of the South East light rail network, ensuring sustainability and enabling future expansion.

I also request a genuine community consultation, which will help a better outcome for all in the short and long term.

I am one of the thousands of people who have signed the PUSH petition calling for an alternative Surry Hills Route, and believe a sub-surface route (Forveaux St or Devonshire St) should be the default option.

Yours Sincerely,

Alison