

The concerns I have are as follows:

1. The size and speed of the trams as they travel down Devonshire St and between Bourke St and South Dowling St. The Light Rail (LR) is going through a very quiet area of Surry Hills. I understand that it is proposed that the light rail will travel at 45kmh along Devonshire St and through Bourke St to South Dowling St. This must be a real safety issue, bearing in mind the foot traffic around the area of Bourke St and Devonshire St (assuming it continues in the manner it is now and isn't destroyed by the LR). One assumes that the distance the LV will take to stop is significantly longer than a car, yet cars are restricted to between 40kmh and 50kmh. Further, Surry Hills has more and more children in the area due to the changing demographics. Further there are a number of schools in the area including the school on the corner of Bourke St and Parkham St. If the speed is not restricted to 20kmh then there is a significant safety risk.
2. The size and speed will lead to the noise created by the LR travelling at 45kmh significantly changing the conditions of Surry Hills as they presently stand. Surry Hills is a quiet village atmosphere that has led to it being one of the best suburbs in Sydney and regularly featured in overseas travel magazines and books. The speed, at least between Bourke St and South Dowling St should be limited to 20kmh for safety and to ensure appropriate noise restrictions in an otherwise quiet village atmosphere. Consideration must be given to continuous rail through the major residential area – particularly between Bourke St and Devonshire St to minimise expansion joint noise.
3. Between Bourke St and Devonshire St noise barriers should be erected otherwise properties bought by residents because they are on quiet streets will have significant noise issues created by the LV.
4. The LR is to have priority at crossings. This creates a massive problem for an area with limited access if they run at too often a frequency. The frequency should be limited.
5. The hours should be limited. It would be wholly inappropriate to have LR running late at night and early morning through otherwise exceptionally quiet areas of Surry Hills.
6. There needs to be real consideration to the visual amenity. The government has produced documents showing beautifully set out streets, with trees. There should be real attention given to ensure that Surry Hills maintains its beautiful tree lined atmosphere. In between Bourke St and South Dowling St real attention needs to be paid to ensure that the Winbo Park is landscaped to provide the best possible visual amenity through that area.
7. The route between Bourke St and South Dowling St should be the central route. That will ensure maximum distance between houses and the LR.

Consideration needs to be given to ensure both Nobb Lane and Parkham Lane remain open otherwise there will be significant issues with parking (most have rear lane access) and services such as rubbish collection.

8. Parkham St should not be opened to South Dowling St. It will make the corner of Bourke St and Parkham St, where the school is, far busier leading to safety concerns.