

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NSW Wildlife Council is the peak body for Wildlife Rehabilitators in NSW.

We are writing to you to convey our dismay at the further potential destruction of Flying Fox habitat which will be caused by the new light rail service to the Eastern Suburbs.

We are urging you to retain as many mature trees as possible in High Cross Park, and along all routes. We particularly urge you to save trees of the Ficus species, which are very long lived and robust, even with demonstrated root interference. (SULE 1a being more appropriate than 2a).

We are hoping you will be able to retain the line of significant trees down Wansey Rd.

We are also very concerned about the three huge mature fig trees (Ficus Macrophylla) which are to be destroyed in the stabling of the light rail carriages at Randwick Racecourse. These are extremely important habitat to Flying-Foxes given the continuing dispersal at the Botanic gardens, and loss of Flying Fox habitat from ongoing clearing and human intervention all up the east coast of Australia. These trees are listed of as of "exceptional significance" in the Conservation Management Plan for the redevelopment of Randwick Racecourse and are mentioned in the Randwick City Council (2007) Register of Significant Trees. (For tree identification, see aerial shot from Development Application 828/2008 below).

**Yet these exceptionally significant trees seem to have been completely missed in the Light Rail EIS survey.** The tree to the right in the aerial shot from DA 828/2008 (tree # 945 - marked in red on Figure 15.21a) has been listed for retention. The other 3 significant fig trees are blocked out in orange for removal on Figure 15.21a, but are not listed anywhere in the EIS (see Table 15.23 below). Neither do they appear in Vol. 5. Technical Paper 9.

These are only a fraction of the 750 trees which are potentially to be cut down to make way for the light rail, but they are huge mature trees and contribute significantly to neighbourhood enjoyment of the area. They also add significantly to the smooth visual transition of Centennial Park into the suburb of Kensington.