

16 December 2013

Director
Infrastructure Projects Branch
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir / Madam

CBD and South East Light Rail Project – Submission to the EIS

UNSW has engaged JBA Planning to undertake an extensive review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which has been on public exhibition over the past month.

The University currently has 43,000 people a day travelling to and from its campus at Kensington, including 25,000 by public transport and 17,000 of those coming from Central by bus. With forecast growth in coming years the UNSW community will be the single largest customer of the Light Rail.

In our analysis of the EIS, we have focused on what we view as the four crucial issues that should be further addressed - staff and student safety, improved amenity, a fully integrated transport system and environmental sustainability.

We have taken a thorough and proactive approach, not only analysing what has been published, but presenting solutions when issues have been found, supported by external advice on safety, traffic, design and urban interface. We take our role in reviewing, this once-in-a-generation project, very seriously and are committed to continuing to work with the project team on its timely delivery.

The University has been advocating for the South East Light Rail with our partners Randwick City Council and the Australian Turf Club for several years. We have received overwhelming support for the Project from not only our staff but our students as well.

Throughout each week of the public exhibition period we have reached a minimum of 7,500 and a maximum of 34,000 supportive staff and students via our Facebook page alone, with several hundred positive comments or actions. We view these figures as extremely encouraging and are looking forward to the confirmation of the next stage of the Project.

With such a large and engaged community we emphasise the impact construction will have on public and private transport to and from the campus as well as the reduction in car parking. We formally request further work and consultation from Transport for NSW on this as a matter of urgency.

I would like to reiterate our support for the South East Light Rail project and our desire to continue to partner with the Government's project team in both a collaborative and constructive manner.

Yours sincerely

Frederick G Hilmer AO
President and Vice Chancellor