

Director, Transport Assessments Planning Services
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Application: SSI 7485

Dear Director Transport Assessments Planning Services,

I write regarding the proposed modification to M4-M5 Link, Mod 2 The Crescent overpass and changes to pedestrian infrastructure in North Annandale, Rozelle and Rozelle Bay Foreshore area.

I request RMS work with the community to explore alternate design options to the proposed new car overpass design and the changed pedestrian and cyclist links. I am seeking the reinstatement of the safe, direct access from the approved EIS GreenLink to create a continuous green open space connection from the Rozelle Rail yards and Annandale to the foreshore. The GreenLink was more than just a walk way - it put people central to the design, maximising safety, and providing much needed accessible open space for the community now and into the future Bays Precinct design.

I am requesting RMS **put people back into the plan** – we want you to reinstate your own vision as laid out in Transport for NSW Future Strategy 2056. Work with us to design a feasible option that brings the best elements from the approved EIS design into the modification.

My key concerns with the M4-M5 Modification are:

- The prioritisation of an environmentally-damaging and profit-focused toll road over the community
- The significantly reduced safety and increased risk for pedestrians and cyclists with removed access over The Crescent to Bicentennial Park and the increased traffic along Johnson Street.
- Being required to cross five sets of pedestrian lights at The Crescent to reach the foreshore from Annandale or from Rozelle Bay light rail stop, decreasing utilisation of public transport and likely resulting in jaywalking due to frustration
- Removal of direct active links to the foreshore, cutting the community off from the area and the proposed revitalisation of the entire Bays Precinct, including linking the Light Rail and Bus stops to a Ferry wharf and Metro station.
- Urban and landscape design that is being built before a finalised Masterplan for the area.
- Traffic changes that limit movements around the suburb and create further congestion in the local streets of Annandale, Forest Lodge, Glebe, Lilyfield and Rozelle with no planning to deal with these.

Alongside these issues my other concerns include:

POOR CONSULTATION

I'm very concerned with the lack of community consultation around this COMPLETE REDESIGN and the rapid implementation of it prior to this submission period being over. I note over the past week the rapid destruction of trees along the cycle path, the closure of part of the pedestrian track along the City West link. It seems as if the aim is to try to progress it as far as possible prior to any feedback being heard.

HEALTH CONCERNS

The Bays Precinct is attractive due to it's village atmosphere, cycle paths and beautiful parks. This is being degraded and damaged at great cost to the community. I am particularly concerned about the health implications for the local community of this intrusion into much-needed green space.

There are proven benefits to health and wellbeing with access to greenspace and incidental exercise/public transport. This “modification” completely ignores the evidence and focuses instead on an outdated, car-centric, for-profit view. This has no place in the modern world and is damaging our communities.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN LOCAL VILLAGES

Annandale village is designed around local traffic, however this project pushes more and more vehicles onto these local roads, endangering children and other pedestrians. This affects local businesses, as they are inaccessible with through traffic blocking access. The pedestrian crossings in this area are frequently ignored by frustrated motorists, and the 4 lane modification to the Crescent will only increase this issue.

HONOURING PROMISES MADE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Approved Environmental Impact Statement at <https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSI-7485%2120190227T231413.342%20GMT> p8 details several principals which have been completely abandoned by this modification:

- **Connect and provide for communities** The concept offers a parkland destination that works to stitch together previously separated communities by providing a range of social infrastructure at a central, easily accessible location. **MOD 2 fails this principal**
- **Enhance green links** The concept reactivates closed-off land through new green spaces and links. These links strategically establish a new green “interaction” connecting a series of significant yet fragmented [future and existing] green spaces in and around White Bay, Rozelle Bay, Rozelle, Balmain, Glebe and Annandale.
- **Respond to the local character** Respecting and maintaining the unique heritage, industrial character and topography of the Rozelle Rail Yards through interpretation.
- **Revitalise streets for equality of mobility** New public spaces and much-needed universally accessible links establish entirely new “public streets” and enhance the surrounding neighbourhood.

My submission is asking RMS and the Project Team to:

- Reinstatement of the GreenLink connecting communities and green open space from Rozelle to Bicentennial Park
- Relocate and design pedestrian and cyclist connections that are continuous, safe and direct.
- Design the modification infrastructure and active links in response to the character of the suburbs, the location of the foreshore and its potential future development.
- Provide pedestrian and cyclist paths that maximise people safety and do not force them onto busier streets, unsafe concrete plazas and caged walkways.
- Prevent this redevelopment from eroding the local villages and keep pedestrians safe by limiting the traffic pushed into small suburban roads.
- Integrate active and direct connections to all active transport – including the future Metro West and Foreshore Ferry Wharf

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Judith Clarke MBBS MPM FRANZCP Adv Cert Cons. Liaison Psych.

Annandale 2038