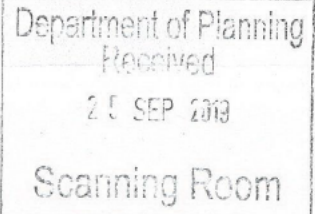




PCU078302



Attention: Director, Transport Assessments Planning Services Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,

Earlier this week the destruction of Buruwan Park took place late at night - much to the distress and disappointment of the Annandale community whose voices fell on deaf ears. As we're not a 'Liberal' voting community - all initial objections and concerns were essentially ignored and our issues are seen as nimby based. However this couldn't be further from the truth. The implementation of the light rail is excellent infrastructure and we very much support stronger levels of buses too. What we don't support is the continued push for more cars and congestion in the area. We're already choked with traffic. On the occasions that I need to drive my car in the morning and use The Crescent, simply trying to get down Johnston Street and onto The Crescent and then the Anzac Bridge can take over 20 minutes to go 1.5kms.

The original proposal for an unobtrusive underground underpass was, to my understanding, signed off on by the government, despite those critics who said it wouldn't happen underground and would end up above (which was denied by the government at the time). And exactly as per those critics words, we have an absolutely hideous LA style concrete overpass being shoved down our throats. Whilst your community guide document to this overpass is all sunshine and flowers - the reality is that it will instead destroy over 70 trees including the large, mature fig trees at Buruwan Park. These trees should not be removed at all until a full Urban Design and Landscape Plan has been completed.

This overpass will also make it more difficult for pedestrians to access Jubilee Park from Johnston Street, it will increase traffic congestion and it will be a Cahill Expressway eyesore for ever more. And no doubt, you'll slap a huge toll on it which will mean most will try to avoid it anyway and the congestion will be worse than ever. You only need to witness morning traffic leaving the Anzac Bridge in the mornings and the congestion nightmare of Bathurst Street since the majority of cars don't want to accept the eye-watering toll of the Cross City Tunnel. Considering the climate change issues we're all currently facing - providing open green space, saving and planting trees, lessening cars and investing strongly in public transport is what everyone in government should be aiming for. Yet instead, the NSW Liberal government is spending record amounts on roads (even from a global perspective) and creating unnecessary environmental destruction in building these roads as opposed to developing a high speed train network from the west and north and greater light rail connections.

I'd like to see in writing what the repercussions will be when this project doesn't deliver as per the community guide document for this overpass. This modification completely ignores the conditions of consent given for this project and threatens to impose unacceptable negative consequences on the landscape and liveability of our local area. Since when did it become tolerable for governments to ignore consent? When is it ever tolerable for anyone to ignore consent?

Have you ever walked down Johnston Street and spent time in our local area? If so, you would clearly see that the proposed overpass is totally out of step with local development in Annandale and will obstruct a beloved local heritage mural and further destroy Buruwan Park. Sufficient consideration hasn't been given to obvious alternatives such as an underground tunnel running under Whites Creek.

I look forward to a response answering all of the above.

Kind Regards,



Stephanie Aplin