

Dear Minister Constance
Re: application No SSI 7485

The prospect of the elimination of Buruwan Park, Rozelle, to make way for the M4-M5 Rozelle Interchange seems to be an avoidable tragedy for the residents of the inner west and the city of Sydney. The park makes the Rozelle Bay Light Rail stop and surrounding streets much more liveable and the air breathable, something that will be even more necessary when the interchange is operational and the exhaust stacks, unfiltered against all recommendations, belching toxic fumes and diesel particulates.

But the loss of Buruwan Park is not unavoidable.

Engineers, including those with interests in the WestConnex project, have said that the destruction of this unique and natural habitat and its mature, native trees and the wildlife inhabiting it is a matter of expediency on the part of the Chinese-owned contractor, John Holland and, I am sorry to say, your government. Each is seeking the most cost-effective solution without placing due weight on the environment, the impacts on people, their health and the area's liveability. Witness the decision to take chainsaws to dozens of decades old date palms rather than transplant them to the park proposed for the disused rail yards which could have accommodated more of the interchange in order to spare Buruwan Park.

Your Department has to take a second look at the equation that says a precious inner-city park and the proposed interchange are mutually exclusive.

There are engineering solutions, including a minor northwards diversion of the motorway, the "Buruwan Bulge". The "bulge" would see a relatively minor northwards movement of the proposed roadway spare the remaining two-thirds of Buruwan Park for current and future generations and at a time when green space and maximising the city's urban canopy are increasingly important.

Governments must be conspicuous about going to considerable lengths to ensure its projects have the least possible impact on the natural and built environments. In this case, it does not appear that sufficient effort or imagination have been brought to bear to protect the environment and its inhabitants from undue harm.

I know as that as the Minister responsible for this state significant infrastructure you would want it to have no greater environmental impact than is absolutely necessary.

Accordingly, I ask that you act urgently to grant a stay of execution for Buruwan Park until the outcome of the MOD 2 amendment is known and which, with a solution such as the Buruwan Bulge, could spare a precious inner-city oasis.

Stop this bulldozing of what precious green space we have left. If this behaviour goes on generations will look back in disbelief at what has been destroyed.

Yours faithfully

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