

Due 18th July 2018, mail to:

Attn: Director, Infrastructure Projects
Major Projects Assessment
Dept Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39 SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Or scan and lodge on-line

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8256

**Personal submission to the Sydenham to Bankstown Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure
Report (Application No SSI 17_8256)**

July 2018

Name: JEAN PORTBOUS

Address: 9/27-31 CRINAN STREET, HURLSTONE PARK 2193

☐ I consent to my name being published

☒ I do not consent to my name being published

☒ I have no reportable donations to disclose

Signature:



In addition to a form submission, I have included my specific concerns so this should be treated as a unique submission.

I am opposed to the conversion of the Sydenham-Bankstown heavy rail line to metro.

I am pleased that the preferred project, as described so far, has addressed the widespread concerns about congestion and construction impacts, the planned destruction of railway heritage items and removal of vegetation. Unfortunately the response to submissions, and preferred project, falls short of community expectations. My submission follows:

The main concerns I have about the metro, the report on submissions and the preferred project are:

SEE ATTACHED

In addition, I endorse the following list of objections and concerns that has been developed by my local community group, the Hurlstone Park association:):

1. The justifications for the project remain unconvincing and have been contradicted by independent rail experts. Alternatives must be addressed such as tunnelling options if the City Circle and Sydenham sites are problematic. A metro for the long distances is not supported.
2. The response to submissions fails to acknowledge that benefits have been over-stated and are over-shadowed by the negative consequences. The trains will have less seating, and commuters will lose many direct connections - those beyond Bankstown will be particularly disadvantaged.
3. Construction and temporary transport issues have not been adequately detailed. The gas leak in the city on 7th July 2018 due to metro construction work with rock breakers is a concern; issues with cost blow-outs and legal proceedings for the light rail project do not instil public confidence.
4. The response has ignored community concerns that project will promote growth in a climate of lack of community trust in the planning process and poor quality development without benefits such as affordability, green space and amenity.
5. The franchising to a private operator is not supported. This has not been good for Melbourne or Newcastle, and we do not want it here. In particular, the Hong-Kong model of development, utilised by MTR Corporation, is totally inappropriate for many of the heritage-rich and garden suburbs in this corridor
6. The loss of the active green strip takes away one of the few benefits of the project.
7. The response to concerns about community consultation is inadequate and inappropriate. Justifying the many techniques used does not address the lack of engagement with, and failure to prioritise the input of, the communities along the line and beyond Bankstown, who are opposed to the project. In addition, the continued use of biased glossy brochures, which have replaced transparency and meaning, reveals little hope for meaningful consultation in the future.

This project should not be approved because it lacks bipartisan and community support, and is the product of process that has lacked democracy and good governance.

The preferred project, to best benefit communities, and Sydney, should be :

- retaining the heavy rail, without a private operator
- investing now in time-tables and signalling, and connections for commuters beyond Bankstown
- upgrading all stations for accessibility, safety, landscaping and active transport connections
- retaining and restoring railway heritage to enable railway-related use including rest-rooms and toilets
- prioritising investment in new rail and rapid bus systems across Sydney instead of converting existing lines/ building more toll-ways

Attachment to submission from Jean Porteous – 18/7/18

The main concern I have about the metro is the reduction in the number of seats. With the proposed new trains even at off-peak times there will be little chance of getting a seat. The situation will only get worse with the proposed increase in population along the rail corridor.

With the current trains, if we do have to stand, at least now we can hold on to the back of the seats. We will not be able to do this on the new trains. Not everyone is tall or capable of raising their arm above their heads for any length of time holding on to overhead bars or straps. The quality of the daily commute will be severely diminished on the new trains, as we will be jammed up against other passengers, and for those of us who are not so tall, with our noses stuck in someone's armpit with nothing to hold on to, bracing ourselves against the movement of the train.

It is stated that the journey time will be reduced, but to me a 25 minute journey seated is far preferable to a 20 minute journey standing. The proposed metro is nothing but a backward step in my opinion when it comes to encouraging the public to use public transport.