

Ingrid Ralph
10 Summerwood Way
Beecroft NSW 2119
14th November 2012
Application number (SSI-5414)

Attention: Director, Infrastructure Projects

Dear Sir/Madam

On 29 October the NSW Government released the second Environmental Impact Statement (EIS2) for the North West Rail Link (NWRL). This includes

The existing Epping to Chatswood Rail Line (ECRL) will be changed so that it will only run single deck trains between Epping and Chatswood. These lines will not be compatible with the current double deck network.

I would like to voice my objection to this change as this will mean:

- I am more likely to be standing on my trip
- increased travel times
- more cars forced back onto the roads in these areas and
- the removal of a convenient train link to the city is likely to drive down property prices in these areas.

I believe the NWRL is a very important project and will offer many benefits to many people. However, having been a commuter for a very long time I am very aware of the effect of needing to change trains. A few months back after a tree blocked the rail at Thornleigh, the trains terminated at Epping Station and all commuters on the train were required to alight and travel up 2 flights of escalators and make their way to Beecroft Rd. It was a **VERY** slow & tedious process, but thankfully not one I needed to do daily. It was also dangerous. There was a bottleneck at the top of the 1st escalators and it was necessary to actually push your way through the people as you stepped off the escalator as the people behind continued to ascend the escalator.

With the proposed changes this would not only be a daily process but I would need to do so **4 times daily**. I understand that being a single decker train the number of commuters would not be as high, but still the need for everyone to alight, move to another platform and then all get on another train with existing commuters with very few seats, if any, will make the new link a nightmare for those commuters. Many will decide the effort is too much and will look for other means, such as cars.

New infrastructure is long overdue, but it should not be detrimental to the existing service. And I also did not see any mention of increased parking at Epping Station, which is one the major interchanges and yet has very little parking.

Yours sincerely

Ingrid Ralph