

Diane Sarkies - Att: Director, Infrastructure Projects. Objection to EIS2 for NWRL, application no. SSI-5414

From: "Philippa Stewart" <pste1042@bigpond.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 19/11/2012 4:52 PM
Subject: Att: Director, Infrastructure Projects. Objection to EIS2 for NWRL, application no. SSI-5414

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Attention: Director, Infrastructure Projects

Re: North West Rail Link EIS2
Application number: SSI-5414

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the current proposal, EIS2, regarding the planned North West Rail Link. EIS2 indicates that trains on the Northern Line, stopping at Normanhurst, Thornleigh, Pennant Hills, Beecroft and Cheltenham will no longer run directly to the City via Chatswood but will, instead terminate at Epping. Passengers from these northern line suburbs will be forced to change, not only at Epping but again at Chatswood in order to complete their commute to the City.

Commuters from these northern suburbs have enjoyed a direct rail connection to the City for many years. Indeed many of us bought our homes in these suburbs and paid premium prices for our properties *because* of the direct rail connection available. Will the State Government compensate us for the inevitable drop in property values that will accompany the removal of that connection? To summarily remove our service without consultation displays a complete disregard for our interests and our reasonable expectations that existing services in our area would be maintained alongside the NWRL development.

The replacement of our single train rail service to the City with one requiring passengers to catch three trains is completely unacceptable. The added travel time in making two changes, and the inability to board (let alone sit down on) already crowded trains at Epping and Chatswood will make rail travel to the City an untenable arrangement, forcing many commuters back onto the roads in private cars. The many elderly residents of our suburbs, who are currently able to enjoy regular city trips on the direct service, will simply not manage the multiple train changes required and will have their liberty to visit their city effectively removed by such a change.

A public transport "solution" that provides services for one region by removing them from another is not a solution at all. There is no net gain in such a proposal. The NWRL project must not take away the public transport services to the northern suburbs in order to provide services elsewhere. An alternative must be found.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Stewart
14 Old Beecroft Rd, Cheltenham NSW 2119