

Diane Sarkies - NWRL EIS2 objection - Impacts on Cheltenham Oval from Service facility

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Date: 20/11/2012 9:22 AM
Subject: NWRL EIS2 objection - Impacts on Cheltenham Oval from Service facility

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 register an objection to elements of the current North West Rail Link (NWRL) proposal detailed in EIS2. EIS2 details (6.21.2) proposals and impacts through the construction and operation of a "Services Facility" to be located at Cheltenham Oval. It would appear that the planning of this part of the proposal has not yet been finalised and that there are still options being considered. This procrastination seems to be more about how little to spend than about community gain and community consultation.

The whole proposal is a major imposition on the Cheltenham community who gains nothing from the NWRL and faces impacts both during construction and operation of the Services Facility and further is faced with the butchering of it's own direct rail service to the CBD.

Cheltenham/Beecroft have very few public park facilities and the few that exist are very limited and constrained by years of underdevelopment by government and council. Traffic and parking (particularly during the soccer season) is particularly problematic at Cheltenham oval due to necessary overuse e.g. up to 15 training sessions per night during the winter. Ironically many of the suburbs that the NWRL will be serving have much better sporting facilities than Cheltenham/Beecroft.

The location of the Services Facility and the obvious disruption that it will incur does not seem to bother the proponents. The planners have obviously chosen this location because they think it presents them with less obstacles than choosing some of the more obvious available locations that may mean more cost or more red-tape due to bushland impacts.

The Services Facility proposal is very thin on detail but patently gives nothing back except the status quo. The Netball Courts are (reluctantly) replaced, the very limited parking is (barely) replaced, the amenities are (reluctantly) replaced with "modern" (but smaller?) facilities (maybe). Castle Howard Road will need to be "improved" to allow truck access resulting in the removal of some large trees which for many years the road has avoided.

Perhaps this proposal should be redrafted to give something back to the Cheltenham/ Beecroft community. Some suggestions:

- Complete Castle Howard Rd. through to Lyne Rd. to give two-way access to Cheltenham Oval.
- Develop the stub of Murray Rd. (off Castle Howard Rd.) for the Services Facility or for additional car-parking for the Oval.
- Resume house(s) on Castle Howard Rd. adjacent the Oval to allow Services Facility, amenities and parking

- Construct replacement netball courts over on-grade extended parking for oval.

I request that the proposal be amended to reduce the impacts on Cheltenham Oval and community and increase the benefits as compensation.

regards

Matthew Yates

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