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8 November 2012

Attention: Director, Infrastructure Projects (FAX: 02 9228 6355)

Re: North West Rail Link, EIS 2 Submission, Application no SSI-5414

Summary: I am concerned about the impact on the trains between Hornsby and Chatswood via Epping, especially on commute times, additional costs and additional stress and inconvenience.

The northern line takes many commuters from Cheltenham, Beecroft, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Normanhurst and Hornsby directly to Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, Chatswood, St Leonards, North Sydney and the City.

Myself and many others bought homes in the area due to the excellent access to these stations. I work in IT and the vast majority of IT jobs in Sydney are at one of these stations. My children are nearing the end of high school and having direct access to Macquarie Uni is a major advantage.

I was shocked to hear that there were plans to stop northern line trains from travelling via Macquarie park. This is going to be a major inconvenience for many people in the northern suburbs.

To travel to St Leonards I assume that I would have to change trains at Epping and again at Chatswood. This is very bad – changing trains is time consuming because you can never rely on trains being exactly on schedule, so typically at each change would waste 10 minutes. Due to this variability in interchange times it would be necessary to leave home earlier to be able to cope with the worst case scenario of arriving just as the train leaves.

Changing trains can also be quite inconvenient and stressful. I value the solid block of time that I have on the train to read books, newspapers or catch up on work using my laptop. Having to change trains twice means that it wouldn't even be worth getting my gear out because by the time I'm setup I'll need to pack it up again. And if I had to change trains at Epping and Chatswood its quite likely that I wouldn't get a seat. Could you imagine having to stand up for 40 minutes each way?

I don't understand why commuters on the northern line north of Epping should have to change trains twice. The North West Rail Line commuters need to change once anyway, so it makes a lot more sense for them to change at Epping rather than Chatswood. There should be more services from Epping as there are two lines that head to the city, whereas from Chatswood theres only one line to the City. Its not fair that commuters from the

Northern line should have to change – theres really no significant advantage for North West Line commuters and big disadvantages for Northern Line commuters

My other main concern is that the train fare to travel between Pennant Hills and Chatswood and beyond could rise significantly. Especially if the North West Rail Link is run by a private group (like the Airport Line). I find it quite unbelievable that the Epping-to-Chatswood rail line which was built by NSW taxpayers like you and I could be put into private hands for private profit! This is especially ridiculous if the service is going to involve two additional changes and the likelihood of not getting a seat.

I sincerely hope that the proposal to send North West Line trains down the Epping-Chatswood line is reconsidered as the impacts to Northern Line commuters north of Epping would be unacceptable.

Regards

Darryl Young