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Date: 2/12/2012 7:35 am
Subject: Submission to North West Rail Link

Attention: Director, Infrastructure Projects

We constitute the Executive Committee of the Owners Corporation for the 121 apartments at Olive Grove and Pichola Place in Castle Hill that are located between Mercer Street and Brisbane Road in Castle Hill. Our submission refers to the proposed Castle Hill Station.

1. Name and Address

Don Williams, 62/16-20 Mercer Street, Castle Hill, NSW 2154.
On behalf of Executive Committee

2. Name of Application

North West Rail Link: Submission from the Executive Committee of the Owners Corporation, Olive Grove and Pichola Place, Strata Plan 76929

3. Application Number

SSI-5414

4. Brief Statement Supporting or Objecting to the Project

Thank you for producing Environmental Impact Statement 2 for the North West Rail Link and affording community consultation. We strongly support the construction of the rail link.

5. Reasons for Supporting the Project

(a) We were pleased to note that two parallel pedestrian crossings with lights have been planned for the intersection of Old Northern Road and Terminus Street. As evidence of our support for this, please refer to the paragraph that appeared in our submission responding to Environmental Impact Statement 1.

Pedestrians are likely to take the most direct route to get to an entry point to the station, even if this means jaywalking. Given the way pedestrian crossings at lights are arranged at present, many people are tempted to jaywalk across Terminus Street rather than walk to the lights. If they happen to be at a particular part of the corner of Crane Road and Terminus Street, they need to cross in three different directions to get to the current bus terminal. A set of pedestrian lights might be needed in Terminus Street to overcome the problem. If synchronised with other lights, they should not impede the flow of traffic.

(b) We were pleased to note that provision has been made for buses to leave the bus terminal via the northern exit and either turn left into Old Northern Road (which is possible at present) or turn right in Terminus Street (which is not possible at present). A recommendation to this effect featured in our submission responding to Environmental Impact Statement 1. The traffic lights required for this to take place will obviously be linked to the pedestrian crossing referred to in (a) above.

(c) The incorporation of 17 kiss and ride spaces on Castle Hill Road is a good idea. Although we do not have a specific proposal to advance, we think it would be advisable to see whether an additional kiss and ride provision could be made elsewhere in the main precinct adjacent to another major road.

(d) We still have a concern about the impact of the proposed development on street parking. Would you please refer to the paragraph that appeared in our submission responding to Environmental Impact Statement 1.

Crane Road is very long and carries a large volume of traffic. Access to Crane Road from Mercer Street is becoming increasingly difficult at peak periods. A significant volume of school traffic also makes use of Brisbane Road and Mercer Street. In your negotiations with the Hills Shire Council, would you please consider the likely impact of commuter parking in these areas where hundreds of apartments are located. If the aim is to encourage commuters to use the planned parking stations at Cherrybrook and the Hills Centre, it might be advisable to establish some limited parking zones in the sections of Mercer Street and Brisbane Road closest to the station. This arrangement exists at Pennant Hills where a neighbouring parking station is at Thornleigh.

Don Williams