

Diane Sarkies - nwrl submission

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To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
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Subject: nwrl submission

Attention Director, Infrastructure Projects,

This submission on the latest EIS for the North West Rail Link is entirely concerned with the proposed Intermediate Services Facility at Cheltenham.

Some aspects of the EIS are excellent, particularly in regard to the replacement courts and service building, and display a conscious effort to accommodate community opinion.

The only item of great concern relates to the proposed access road through bushland to the northwest of the site.

The current proposal to build a two lane access road along the M2 fence line, and to revegetate the area afterwards displays a total contempt for the local environment. After all, how do you revegetate rocky outcrops that have been removed? The funds would be better spent on the government's re-election campaign.

The idea of a two lane road is ridiculous. With the stated traffic load of 7 trucks per hour, simple erlang traffic calculations show that with traffic lights at each end a one lane road would be quite sufficient, as demonstrated on the adjacent bridge over the M2, which has had single lane working for some time, and has been carrying far more than the equivalent of 7 trucks per hour.

There is an alternative route for the access road which the local community would be prepared to accept, and that is a single lane road along the existing track to Kirkham Street. Using this route revegetation is a viable prospect.

The principal argument against changing the route of the access road seems to be that it would result in a four month delay; considering the permanent damage that would result, this would seem to be the weakest reason possible.

The proposal for a two lane road along the M2 fence line demonstrates a contempt for the local environment in which the media and the government's opponents in Parliament would delight. The Beecroft community has demonstrated in the past that it is skilled in using the media to fight threats to its environment.

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