

Mr James Sellwood
Senior Planning Officer
Transport Assessments
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Sellwood

Notice of Exhibition Parramatta Light Rail (SS1-8285)

Thank you for the Department's letter of 22nd August 2017 inviting comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Parramatta Light Rail – Stage 1 from Westmead to Carlingford via Parramatta CBD and Camellia.

The Western Sydney Local Health District, Centre for Population Health has reviewed the documents and provides the following comments:

Social, Health & Environmental Benefits

The Centre for Population Health supports the introduction of new public transport options with connectivity to existing transport interchanges. The connection of the Westmead Health Precinct to the Parramatta CBD will allow for less reliance on private vehicles entering the area and thus reduce congestion and parking pressures.

Encouraging more active transport options is known to lead to an increase in physical activity and thus health benefits such as improved cardiovascular health and reduced risk of overweight and obesity, and type 2 diabetes.

As the World Health Organisation¹ notes, people are more active when they can easily access key destinations such as transport hubs, parks, green spaces, workplaces and shops.

Recommendations

That transport hubs/stations have appropriate infrastructure supporting active travel, (such as: clear wayfinding, seating, shade, water refill stations, etc.)

That safe (well lit), clean and attractive (green, open and recreational spaces) with points of interest (such as public art) are located nearby and that walking and cycling pathways are provided to transport hubs/stations.

¹ Peggy Edwards and Agis Tsouros (2006) The Solid Facts: Promoting Physical Activity and Active Living in Urban Environments: The role of local governments. WHO. www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/98424/E89498.pdf

That the availability of healthy food options is encouraged at transport hubs/stations.

That consideration on how to provide places at or nearby to the transport hubs/stations that will encourage social interaction and connection among people and promote a sense of community and attachment to the area.

Air Quality and Contaminated Land

The conclusions of the Air Quality Risk Assessment Study were that during the construction phase of the Parramatta Light Rail project there is medium risk of air quality impacts on local receivers and during the operation phase there will be a low risk of air quality impacts on receivers.

It is noted that the review of regional air quality monitoring shows that the project area could be expected to be impacted by poor air quality across the region and any increases of emissions by this project into the local air shed should be avoided as far as possible.

Of concern is the volume of excavated soil to be extracted and moved to be used as fill in other areas. It is estimated that 176,000m³ will be excavated and moved across the project area.

It is difficult to assess the incremental impact of this project on local or regional air quality or on sensitive receptors as air quality modelling was not provided.

A range of dust control measures to be implemented during construction are proposed to effectively control dust. It is recommended that all feasible and reasonable measures to minimise the exposure of those negatively impacted should be considered. A particular focus should be on those areas known or potentially impacting by previous asbestos contamination.

Monitoring would allow for the assessment of the effectiveness of mitigation measures and modification of controls if required.

Recommendations:

That monitoring of dust, including PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, near to sensitive receptors during the construction stage should be implemented and an appropriate response actions to adverse conditions should be included in the management plan.

That an appropriate asbestos management plan should be implemented during any excavation or movement of known or potentially contaminated soils.

That a system to enable residents and/or road users to register complaints about air quality or other impacts during the construction stage should also be provided and appropriate responses should be taken and recorded.

Noise Impacts

There is increasing evidence internationally that environmental noise exposure is a risk to public health, and is recognised by international bodies such as World Health Organisation (WHO) and the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC). There is some suggestion of the

long-term effects of environmental exposure to noise on annoyance, sleep disturbance, children's performance at school, hypertension and ischemic heart disease.²

Recommendations

That noise impacts during both construction and operation on sensitive receptors are reduced as far as is feasible.

That a system to enable residents and/or road users to register complaints about noise or vibration impacts during the construction stage should be provided and appropriate responses should be taken and recorded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parramatta Light Rail project. Should you require any further information, please contact Helen Noonan, Manager Environmental Health & Disaster Preparedness on 9840 3603.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Corbett
Director
Centre for Population Health
Western Sydney Local Health District

² Carroll, A. for the EnHealth Council. The health effects of environmental noise – other than hearing loss. EnHealth Population Health Division, Australian Department of Health and Ageing 2004

