

Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1:

1. I favour the scheme; But the route through Parramatta - North Parramatta should be diverted TWO blocks to the West (see Item 2) -
 - a) to better service popular destinations (Items 3 & 4)
 - b) to lessen a major problem for St Patrick's Church (Cathedral) goers (Item 5)
2. The route should NOT traverse Church St (Eat Street); instead it should go along O'Connell St - particularly between Albert St and Parramatta River; it should continue South before turning East into Macquarie St. To assist in maintaining traffic flow in O'Connell St, PLR a stop should be located within the perimeter of Parramatta Park, a minor intrusion.
3. Western diversion would ideally service (from North to South): the North Parramatta precinct (Albert St); the Leagues Club (plus East Parramatta Park & two schools); the rebuilt Stadium with access to Parramatta River, the RSL Club (and Parramatta Park SE entrances).
4. Stops on the Western diversion might conveniently be located at intervals: at Cumberland Hospital (no change); Albert St; Eels Place; near the old pool; at Macquarie St (Stop on RSL land to facilitate traffic flow?).
5. A Prince Albert Square stop (to which I object) would, I consider
 - a) negatively impact on pedestrian and vehicular access to the Cathedral and to the conduct of Services therein: well attended Masses on Saturday evenings (Vigil of the Sabbath), to Sunday mornings (to about 1 pm), to Sunday evenings (5.30 pm to 7.30 pm); also to frequent Weddings on Saturdays (from late morning to late afternoon).
 - b) encourage pedestrian traffic along Victoria Rd - to and from Parramatta Stadium - on Game Days and for major Entertainment Events. On past occasions, massive numbers of people have prevented vehicular access to Cathedral parking; also boisterous behaviour of pedestrians (on their way to a good time) has disrupted Cathedral Services, even drowning out (stopping) a Sermon. Because the Cathedral has wider Diocesan relevance, attendance is drawn from near and far, hence the need for considerable parking access. Mooted closure of Victoria Rd (between Marist Place and O'Connell Sts) would deny vehicular access to the Cathedral (not possible from Marist place) and to the OLMC Convent; without solving the problem of disruption to the Cathedral. A composite aerial photo shows the Church St & O'Connell St options; it also shows - between the Stadium & Prince Alfred Square - properties owned by the Catholic Diocese and, a separate entity, the St Patrick's (Cathedral) Parish.
6. The proposed Western diversion will encourage stadium patrons to use PLR- rather than walk - from Parramatta Station; rail users could transit to

PLR at Westmead, thence directly to the stadium: TWO major boosts to PLR use. The diversion would take pressure from Eat Street: Currently on Game Days pedestrians - in large numbers - disrupt dining activity : think waiters serving patrons in enclosures on the footpath itself..

About this submission:

- This is a modification of a submission jointly prepared by another resident.
- I am a resident in Winston Hills having resided here for approximately 12 years but my wife has resided in Winston Hills/Northmead for over 30 years,
- I am a retired accountant with experience in both private and government organisations but also have qualifications and historical experience in Civil Disaster and Emergency Medical Services
- I have previously been an advisor to the Darling Harbour Authority and also been the CFO for a company that provided Counter Terrorism and Intruder Protection Systems to the Australian Federal Police – International Deployment Group.

Writer:

Albert Ian Gilbertson JP B.Bus; L.Th.; Ass.Dip. EMS; Ass .Dip.CivDis(S&R).

Residential Address: 172A Windsor Road Winston Hills 2153

Postal Address: PO Box 84 Northmead NSW 2152

Home Phone : 02 9686 1743

Mobile Phone: 0429 139 050

Email: aiangilbertson@ozemail.com.au