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Application No. SSI 15_7400. Sydney Metro

Submission.

1. Gauge of Rail Construction

The intended construction of the Chatswood to Sydenham Railway is a much needed transport infrastructure project for the already overcrowded northern Sydney existing railway.

However, as this will be built to a different gauge, it should not proceed in its current planned form. Any new rail infrastructure for Sydney must be built so that it is integrated into the existing network, NOT as a separate entity.

Otherwise, it will be a case of changes train gauges – ie. 'All out, all change at Albury' when travelling from Sydney to Melbourne prior to standard gauge construction.

Separate rail construction could/would be the greatest public transport bungle since the colonies embarked on such the scale that occurred over 100 years ago.

Same gauge, same trains, same ability to travel without the need to change from one to another.

2. Aboriginal Heritage Integration

The intended project will cross the Country of different Aboriginal people's language groups on both sides of the harbour. As such, any new stations should incorporate the Aboriginal heritage and identity (both traditional and contemporary) of the area. Relevant stakeholders and knowledge keepers such as the Metropolitan Land Council, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (an education program could be developed around the project construction similar to Barangaroo) and Aboriginal Heritage Office.

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