

EIS 1 – Northwest rail link

Name Brian Walters;
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Telephone 9659 0106 (H);
Application: SSI-5100.

1. Support for project:

- I support the project.

2. Reasons for support:

- The train line will be a valuable piece of infrastructure that will have immediate benefits and advantages once it is complete;
- These benefits and advantages will continue well into the future – possibly the next 100 years (or more);
- The area generally needs more public transport in the form of a heavy rail line;
- In spite of this support there are some concerns as shown in the following section.

3. Concerns regarding the project:

- The main area of concern is in regards to Cherrybrook Station – I know the general area of the proposed station and have made a point of actually walking the proposed perimeter of the construction site;
- There are a number of houses that will need to be resumed – I hope that there will be fair and reasonable compensation paid to the existing owners;
- Also, assistance may be required to help the existing owners to find another property in which to live;
- Changed traffic conditions on Castle Hill Road – the two proposed sets of traffic control lights will have a major effect on the traffic flow on this road. This is already a very busy road, especially in the morning and afternoon peak-times and these lights will potentially make the traffic conditions a lot worse;
- The number of dump trucks and other construction vehicles will be high during the construction period and this will add to general traffic problems;
- These construction vehicles are likely to create a high level of noise on Castle Hill Road – particularly when they use engine-braking (similar to the effect of changing down in gears). This type of noise is already audible from where I now live;
- The effect of tunneling – I have been assured that the level of noise and vibration will range from undetectable to minimal so this is only a minor concern;
- In the longer term and possibly during construction, Roberts Road, that comprises the western edge of the site is a narrow suburban road - a back street that already has some traffic problems; any increase in the volume of traffic during construction will exacerbate existing problems;
- There are potential problems with Roberts Road after the station is completed and this is of increasing concern to some other residents in the area.

4. Other comments:

- I commend the high quality of the written advice that has been made freely available regarding this project - it has contained a wealth of relevant information;
- I also commend the quality of the staff at the Castle Hill Information Office and those that attended recent Information sessions – both groups have been polite and cooperative.

5. Conclusion:

- Despite the concerns mentioned above, I am quite prepared to put up with some inconvenience and problems during the construction with the view that they will not go on indefinitely and the end result will justify the means of getting it done.

B. Walters

16th May, 2012.