



Hawkesbury Harvest
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Hawkesbury Harvest is a
Slow Food Convivium

Re Northwest Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement 1.

The Director, Major Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
GPO Box 39, Sydney, NSW 2001

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement No1 and in particular at site number 6: Hills Centre Station.

Hawkesbury Harvest is a not for profit, community incorporated association who have been operating a Farmers and Fine Food Markets on the Castle Hill Showground for nearly 10 years. (8am – 12 noon). The market is located in the Harvey Low Pavilion and adjacent grass area almost opposite Gilbert Road and alongside Showground Road.

Our Farmers and Fine Food Market operates twice per month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. It attracts 3500 customers on the 2nd Saturday and 2500 customers on the 4th Saturday. (the 4th Saturday Market has only been operating for 18 months). The Farmers Market generates approximately \$6.9m in turnover per annum.

The main issues with respect to the EIS 1 and the Number 6 Hills Centre Station are access and egress for both the stall holders and the 3500 customers attending the markets during and post construction. We currently access and egress the Market via Doran Drive off Carrington Road. Customers do not like change and any difficulty entering and leaving the site will have a very detrimental impact.

There could be opportunities to access the Farmers Market via the Carrington Road and Middleton Road roundabout and enter the Hills Shire Council staff car park and wind you way to an already existing road (although not suitable for heavy traffic and not suitable for both way traffic) that lead you along the inside of the fence along Showground Road to the Harvey Low Pavilion and to the existing car parking areas.

This alternate solution requires cooperation from all parties, including Hills Shire Council. Persistent rumours about the sale of the existing Council office buildings could impede access to the existing carpark and therefore access could be denied.

A temporary new entrance off Carrington road, above your building zone, heading toward the larger showground and then bearing left, along the fence line which is the mid point of Doran Drive (intersection where you can enter the lower car parks) could also possibly work.

Directional signage (pointing the way to the Farmers Market) and ease of exit and entry are the keys to ensure that during the build the customer base does not find it difficult to access the Market.

Hawkesbury Harvest is willing to work collaboratively with North West Rail Link planning team to put in place the best solution possible

We invite you to continue to engage Hawkesbury Harvest in the final design for access and egress to the showground. Hawkesbury Harvest are very pleased with our already consultation by your staff in getting to this point. (Katherine Martin, Place Manager)

Regards

Alan Eagle
Hawkesbury Harvest
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