

Submission regarding the North West Rail Link

Application number: SS1-5100

I am not in favour of the current submission, in relation to the following three matters:

1/ The placement of the tunnel under Castle Howard Rd, Cheltenham which should be moved closer to the M2.

The placement of the tunnel just next to Castle Howard Rd takes its construction much closer than I would think necessary to the established residences along this street. Already these residences have been affected by the nearby construction of the M2. These residences will now be subjected to noise and vibration from the construction, as well as the ongoing operation of the trains. Although I cannot speak for my neighbours from Castle Howard Rd, I can say that the M2 at least provides my family with good access to the city and the west. However, I cannot see much personal benefit from the Northwest Rail Link. Why cannot the tunnel be placed under the M2 or far closer to it?

2/ The placement of the emergency shaft on the current netball courts near Cheltenham Oval, which should instead be built next to the M2.

The placement of the emergency shaft on the netball courts removes that community facility, it will impact the nearby oval and activities there, and it impacts significantly the quality of living for the houses which are adjacent to the netball courts. Furthermore, I understand the emergency shaft is not able to be built in the most efficient way because this position is not as close as desirable to the location of the tunnel.

3/ The proposal to have truck movements along Castle Howard Rd to remove soil from the construction of the emergency shaft and the proposal to use Castle Howard Rd for emergency access to the shaft. Access should be from the M2 or from a newly built access road from Kirkham Rd.

I believe the proposed route is not suitable for the construction as it will be difficult to access for both emergency and construction vehicles, as well as increase the risk of pedestrian injury. Castle Howard Rd is a very quiet suburban road, which is called a road but in fact is a cul-de-sac. The quality of the road is not good, it has a sharp turn to enter it from Oaklands Ave which is difficult for cars to negotiate from different

directions and the width of the road is only sufficient for one car across in parts. Entry to Oaklands Ave and hence Castle Howard Rd is from Boronia Ave which is also a narrow road and not designed to accommodate trucks or heavy traffic. Further, Castle Howard Rd does not have any footpaths and pedestrians therefore share the road. Any increase in traffic therefore will endanger these pedestrians, which are frequently children and young people who use the facilities at and around Cheltenham Oval, as well as the bush paths in the reserve. It is well known to public safety experts that children and young people do not have well developed skills to negotiate the complexities of road traffic and this risk will be accentuated if the proposal proceeds due to the particular features of Castle Howard Rd as described above, as well as the noise and other distractions of the construction.

Thank you for reviewing my submission.