Graham Ross

From:	Graham Ross [graham@gardenclinic.com.au]
Sent:	Monday, 5 November 2012 1:32 PM
To:	plan_commenty@planning.nsw.gov.au
Cc:	Steve.Warnock@minister.nsw.gov.au; ulienne86839@hotmail.com; gail@pergolatrends.com.au; Linda Ross; Kent Ross; Sandra Ross
Subject:	Northern Sydney Freight Programme

Director- Infrastructure Projects
Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Project – SSI 5132
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

Re: Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Project – SSI 5132

I am writing to totally oppose this project on the grounds that the Department of Planning EIS is seriously flawed, it ignores the complete Heritage Aspects of the Cheltenham / Beecroft area, paying only scant attention to the real impact this project will have on the communities involved.
When you read the document it ignores long established historical knowledge and the Heritage proclamation of both the NSW Government and Hornsby Municipal Council's Heritage classifications of the entire region.
In particular 44,46,48 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 The Crescent Cheltenham, heritage gardens and architectural components are trashed by this arrogant document.

When the Mt Pleasant Estate was built the community, NOT the state government, paid for the railway station which has wonderful heritage values. The EIS adopts the totally unacceptable position that a nice new metal and glass number would be appreciated by the community. NO WAY. The station needs to retained as is and not tampered with.
It's amazing how the heritage standards of a once proud NSW Planning Department could drop to such low levels and totally ignore respected and established heritage values of this station precinct now well over 100 years old.

With regards to my area, Beecroft, the adverse impact on the suburb from toxic dust, increased serious noise issues upon 60+% of the community and the physical damage is mind boggling.
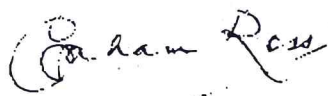
It is inconceivable the Department and its planning officers are even considering the reduction and damage to Australia's second only historic and heritage listed Village Green. The other being in The Rocks, Sydney. This highly valuable precinct at Beecroftt is used annually by the local Rotary Club of Beecroft for the community's Christmas Festivals, Community Fairs, other organisations, including the local Lions Club, use the area for fund raising events and celebratory functions let alone the local Beecroft Public School using the area weekly for recreational purposes. It contains the only public toilet facilities for several kilometres along Beecroft Road between Pennant Hills and Epping, and it is used daily by parents and children as a playground and recluse amongst the mature trees. With the EIS this heritage Village Green will be turned into a toxic dust filled, noisy, unpleasant, unfriendly, second rate barren landscape.

In addition the EIS seeks removal of heritage listed Eucalypts along the track, the removal of several Araucauria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pines) trees, (long time listed on the National Heritage Trees Register), removal or relocation of the WW1 and WW2 Memorial, removal or reduction of the extremely popular children's playground, the only one in the shopping precinct and which I visit 3-4 times weekly with my grandchildren along with hundreds of other children, parents and grandparents daily, and relocation of the Scout Hall.
This EIS trashes the entire heritage listed Beecroft VIllage community along the proposed path of the third track.

With nearly 1,000 local community signatures already opposing this project have been sent to the Planning Department, I don't think the current Planning Department staff would be old enough to remember Kelly's Bush, well think again.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Ross VMM, Dip. Teach, Dip. Hort, Dip. Park Admin, Cert. Ag, Cert GK.,MAIH. HMA (Aust), GMG (UK).

CEO Ross Garden Tours International P/L & Graham Ross Horticultural Consultants P/L. (1978)
Broadcaster Radio 2GB and Better Homes & Gardens TV (7)