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THE DIRECTOR – INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS,
EPPING-THORNLEIGH THIRD TRACK PROJECT – SS1 5132.
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I WISH TO LODGE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE OBJECTION TO THE EPPING-THORNLEIGH
THIRD TRACK PROJECT !.

WHAT SORT OF GOVERNMENTAL/BUREAUCRATIC IDIOCY IS THIS ?.

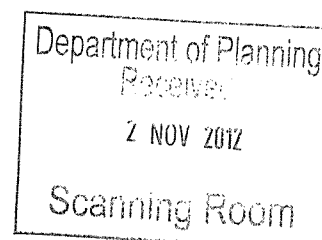
WHY ARE YOU SPENDING AND/OR PLANNING TO SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF TAX-
PAYERS' MONEY ON RING ROADS, FREEWAYS, TOLLWAYS AND TUNNELS TO CIRCLE AND
DISSECT SYDNEY, WITH THE AIM OF REDUCING THROUGH TRAFFIC – PARTICULARLY
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES – ON SUBURBAN STREETS AND MAJOR COMMUTER ARTERIES...
AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTEMPLATE RAMMING AN UNWANTED AND UNWARRANTED
THIRD "STEEL HIGHWAY" THROUGH THE RESIDENTIAL HAVEN OF TWO OLD ESTABLISHED
SUBURBS IN THE CASE OF BEECROFT AND CHELTENHAM, BOTH CLASSIFIED AS HERITAGE
CONSERVATION AREAS !!!!.

THIS PROPOSED THIRD LINE IS UNNECESSARY; IT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE VISUAL
AND NOISE POLLUTION, NOT ONLY FOR THOSE HOMES AND PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY
FRONTING THE RAIL CORRIDOR, BUT FOR AT LEAST 250 TO 300 METRES EITHER SIDE.
FOR THOSE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY, IN THE CRESCENT AND SUTHERLAND ROAD AND
ADJACENT STREETS, IT WILL BE A NIGHTMARE RESULTING IN LOSS OF AMENITY, LOSS OF
SLEEP, LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE, INCREASED STRESS AND ILL HEALTH.

I LIVE APPROXIMATELY 225 METRES FROM THE RAIL CORRIDOR, ON THE WESTERN OR
BEECROFT ROAD SIDE AND, IN ITS PRESENT STATE AND TRAFFIC LOAD – PARTICULARLY
NIGHT TIME FREIGHT MOVEMENTS – THE RAIL CORRIDOR IS ALREADY MORE INTRUSIVE
THAN BUSY BEECROFT ROAD.

THE RAIL CORRIDOR, AS IT EXISTS, IS A FACT OF LIFE. THE RESIDENTS OF CHELTENHAM AND
BEECROFT ACCEPT THAT AND HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH IT... DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT
ALREADY CARRIES FAR HEAVIER TRAFFIC AND IS FAR MORE INTRUSIVE THAN WAS EVER
ENVISAGED WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE LATE 1800'S, OR EVEN AS RECENTLY AS THE
1960'S. THE SO-CALLED VEGETATION SCREEN CURRENTLY FLANKING THE CORRIDOR IS
THINNER THAN A WET T-SHIRT AND HARDLY DEFLECTS A GENTLE BREEZE, LET ALONE THE
ROAR OF DIESEL ENGINES AND THE CLANK AND GRIND OF RUSTING FREIGHT WAGONS IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT – AND YET MUCH OF THAT EXISTING VEGETATION WILL BE LOST
TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSED THIRD TRACK AND THE EYESORE STATION
REDEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY AT CHELTENHAM.

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TO SQUEEZE A THIRD, DEDICATED FREIGHT LINE THROUGH THE ALREADY TOO-NARROW CORRIDOR FROM EPPING TO THORNLEIGH IS MADNESS AND COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY.

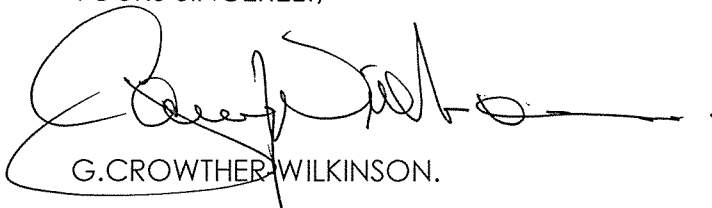
WHY ARE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS BEING SPENT, AND THE AMENITY AND RIGHTS OF THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS BEING TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT SIMPLY TO SHORE-UP THE PROFITS OF COMMERCIAL RAIL FREIGHT OPERATORS ?.

THE TRUTH IS THE EXISTING CORRIDOR WOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE FREIGHT MOVEMENTS, AND HAVE LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, IF THE PRIVATE FREIGHT OPERATORS WERE TOLD TO SPEND SOME OF THEIR FAT PROFITS TO UPGRADE THEIR ENGINES TO THE MORE POWERFUL, YET QUIETER AND MORE EFFICIENT LOCOMOTIVES CURRENTLY HAULING FREIGHT ACROSS EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND ELSEWHERE; AND FURTHER, THEY MIGHT INVESTIGATE THE TECHNOLOGY OF MORE ADVANCED BOGIES BEING USED TO CUSHION THE NOISE OF FREIGHT WAGONS NOW OPERATED BY THEIR SMARTER INTERNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS.

ALONG WITH MOST RESIDENTS OF CHELTENHAM AND BEECROFT AND, I'M SURE, PENNANT HILLS AND THORNLEIGH, I OBJECT TO THIS UGLY, INTRUSIVE, UNNECESSARY THIRD RAIL PROJECT, AND TO MY TAXPAYER DOLLARS BEING USED TO UNDERWRITE THE PROFITS OF PRIVATE RAIL FREIGHT OPERATORS WHO ARE TOO LAZY AND/OR GREEDY TO INVEST IN NEW ROLLING STOCK.

DO NOT DESTROY OUR SUBURBS !.

YOURS SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowther-Wilkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

G.CROWTHER-WILKINSON.