

Tracy Bellamy - Submission on Epping to Thornleigh Third Track - SSI 5132

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/11/2012 12:18 PM
Subject: Submission on Epping to Thornleigh Third Track - SSI 5132
CC: [REDACTED]

Attention: Director – Infrastructure Projects
Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Project – SSI 5132

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Director,

Submission on Epping to Thornleigh 3rd Track

We refer to the above project. We are residents of Cheltenham. [REDACTED]

We object to the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track proposal for the following reasons:

Inappropriate Location:

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- The movement of rail freight through residential areas is an incompatible use. For reasons including health reasons, noise reasons and visual amenity it is inappropriate to plan for large numbers of rail freight to run directly through a populated residential area.
- Claims that the project will reduce road freight are not substantiated. As total freight increases, road freight will also increase. A study published to support another piece of public infrastructure states that *“rail is unlikely to meet the future inter-regional transport task even if major rail infrastructure upgrades occur”* (SKM Report F3 Sydney Orbital Link Study, April 2004)

Health Reasons:

- The EIS does not address health impact of residents living near to the track who will be impacted by more frequent noise disturbances, particularly throughout the night. This causes broken sleep and can lead to insomnia which in turn can create other health issues (depression and anxiety are linked to insomnia). We are personally already impacted by the existing movement on the line (being woken by squealing wheels of freight trains and loud engines). Increased freight movement will increase these sleep disturbances.
- The EIS does not address health impacts of residents resulting from increased coal dust (transferred by rail). Coal dust is a known carcinogen and this ought to be studied prior to the project receiving approval. Cheltenham Girls High School is located in close proximity to the track and the impact of increased coal dust on nearby residents and community facilities (such as the school and recreation club) ought to be considered and discussed with the local community.

Heritage Reasons:

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- There has been inadequate assessment of the project’s impact on the fabric of the Beecroft Cheltenham Heritage conservation area.

- The proposal to re-build Cheltenham station does not adequately take into account the fact that the station is located in a heritage conservation area.
- The proposed design of the new station at Cheltenham is totally incompatible with the heritage conservation surroundings of the area. The existing low-lying brick station buildings are harmonious with the heritage conservation surroundings. By contrast, the proposed building (involving large panes of glass and a tall angular structure) would be completely at odds with the surrounds.
- There has been little or inadequate consideration of Aboriginal archaeology in the area.
- No evaluation has been made of the type of engineering structures and aesthetic finishes which are suitable and compatible for a heritage conservation area. This includes retaining walls, revetment and culverts. Shotcrete is not an acceptable finish in a heritage conservation area. These issues should be addressed in the EIS given that they have an impact on visual amenity and the character of the heritage conservation area. Approval should not be given without these issues being addressed.

Vegetation Reasons:

- - The EIS relies on vegetation to lessen the impact of the project on heritage houses and the heritage conservation area while providing no indication of how vegetation will be maintained or replaced along the corridor.
 - Removing vegetation in order to install a third track will affect the visual amenity of the area for residents living close to the track and those who frequent the area.

Local Economy:

- - Increased freight noise (including squealing wheels and engine noise) will detrimentally impact local businesses at Beecroft. The loss of amenity is likely to cause patronage at local cafes and shops to decrease. This is likely in turn, to impact the overall amenity of the area.

We urge you to take these considerations into account and to reconsider the feasibility of the project. In our view the project is inappropriate in this location and will damage the environment, local amenity and local heritage. The health impacts of the project have not been properly assessed nor has the potential for the project to detrimentally impact residents and school children in the area.

We look forward to receiving a response to this submission.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

web: www.chalkfitzgerald.com.au

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