

Submission regarding the proposed **Crescent Overpass**

I am writing a submission to protest the construction of an elevated motorway overpass in Annandale at the Crescent and City West Link as part of WestConnex. I am a resident of Annandale and have lived at 33 Piper Street for the past 37 years.

In this submission I will cover:

1. The impact on the local area of an overpass
2. Access for pedestrians and cyclists
3. The extraordinary historical Rodney Monk's heritage mural
4. The role of pedestrians in this area

An overpass would dominate the area which is already seriously impacted by the Rozelle interchange. I am one of the, literally hundreds, of local residents that start their busy day with a walk to Jubilee Park foreshore. We walk down Johnstone Street or via Railway Parade and along the Crescent past the magnificent mural to access the park area. An Overpass will change the aspect and feel entirely. We as local pedestrians have a right to this space. This is a medium high-density area and so the open, free flowing space is essential to our quality of life.

Exercise and sociable walking is a most important thing for societal health and community wellbeing. This sense of quiet space for friends, children, dog walkers and cyclists to enjoy daily is immeasurably important. Already the car seems to be taking over our local space, the proposed overpass is just more dominating and intrusive.

If a pass is needed, please make an underpass, this way it is a win for all involved. For as long as I can remember Council has protected the view of the sea here. This is our foreshore and a magnificent one it is. Previously multi story boat facilities were proposed and due to the passion and genuine love of the area these developments did not proceed. Now the proposal of an Overpass for cars!! A short tunnel under the City West Link with slot trench approaches. An underpass provides the best visual and urban outcomes and should allow the retention of the green link in a location to best connect different areas of greenspace together.

I have received many communications about the Rozelle Interchange proposals and from my examination of the latest it seems there is now no direct pedestrian and cycling link between the Glebe foreshore and Rozelle Goods Yard. Am I correct has the latest proposal abandoned the horseshoe pedestrian bridge but has not reinstated the seamless park to park connection that was originally promised? This means that cyclists and pedestrians are forced to cross the Crescent via traffic lights? I challenge you to walk the Glebe foreshore walk any morning or evening of the week to see the quantity of people enjoying it. If there is a pedestrian and cycle way the number of people enjoying this would increase hugely and it would also mean, we could vary our walk and include the new Rozelle park lands which is very exciting for us all.

The Rodney Monk historical mural on the Crescent is an important heritage feature of the area. It recognises and pays respect to the original inhabitants of the area, the wildlife, the flight path exactly over our homes, the working harbour, the people even the Balmain Tigers. I made a calendar in 2017 of the local area and this beautiful, humorous and precious example of historical heritage street art featured. Street art is a feature of the Inner West but this piece is unparalleled. I walk my grandsons along the Crescent, and we study the pictures and talk about all the wonderful, rich features. The phoenix palm on the wall which turns into a real tree, the truck drivers, the terrace houses, the aboriginal people fishing in the bay, the people chatting over fences, the aeroplanes flying low over our heads- there is no end of conversation and learning here in this mural.



The proposed overpass will obstruct our precious and irreplaceable mural.

The Crescent Overpass is by Transport for NSW whose exclusive focus is improved vehicle movements. This does not take into consideration the whole picture of life in a city. We must protect and value the community and its physical coherence. If Coronavirus has shown us anything it is the importance of community, of our ability to walk and cycle, to feel nature around us to move freely by foot and cycle- this is our habitat. Balance is essential the NSW Government needs to take the wider community into consideration, it is simply not acceptable to think solely of vehicles.

Thank you for reading my submission. I look forward to hearing your considerations

Yours sincerely

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