

I wish to make a submission in relation to the Metro West Project. There are numerous concerns I have regarding the impact the project will have on my family, our way of life, our health, our residence and the building our residence is located in. These concerns are specifically related to the development of the Metro West Station at Five Dock.

Through this submission I will raise my major concerns and to vent some frustration regarding the justification for the Metro West Project.

VENTING

Metro West uses the main justification for the project as the Greater Sydney Areas population will increase from 4.6 million to 8 million by 2056. My concern with Metro West using this information as the gospel truth is that there are numerous factors that need to be answered before accepting that this prediction will come to fruition.

1. If the Greater Sydney Area's current population is around 4.6million and we are already struggling for water. How is Greater Sydney going to provide a sufficient supply of water for an almost doubling of the population?

2. Has the optimum carrying capacity for Greater Sydney Area's population been thoroughly considered or investigated? Allowing a balance between economic competitiveness as well as maintaining a high quality standard of living.

3. Sydney's electricity demand is escalating daily and there is an increasing reliance on electricity for daily living. With the continual issues of power outages and interruptions, will the Great Sydney Area have a reliable and sufficient supply to meet the demands of a population of 8 million?

I think even though Sydney requires improvements to its transport infrastructure they are putting the cart before the horse.

I also have a major concern that NSW has a poor track record (by both political parties) on delivering successful transport infrastructure projects. Especially in regards to delivering them on time, under budget and the projects meeting the objectives they were initially implemented for. Such examples include projects like the:

- Sydney Cross City Tunnel
- The Sydney Monorail
- The CBD and South East Light Rail, and the current
- Chatswood to Sydenham component of the Sydney Metro City and Southwest

These projects have overruns in either cost, time and or the projects did not meet their specific objectives for which there were built. Who is being held accountable for this? The people involved still received large pay packages, even though they show poor managerial and financial skills. Overruns occur because of poor project planning, poor budgeting, poor contract negotiations and too much scope relating to variations. These large government infrastructure projects require better budgeting, better appraisal and a better tendering process so the public is not provide with misleading information. Basically once a project receives the green light it is impossible to stop. The

public then has to incur more costs and time delays. Governments know this and if a project does go over budget they can still fund the project. This is achieved by reducing money to other essential services while they continue to funnel money into finishing the project.

A small justification for the Metro West Project is the city shaping benefits of more affordable housing. Apartments are not becoming more affordable. Yes apartments are cheaper than houses; however you have to make sacrifices, specifically in regards to size and privacy. On a sq/m comparison apartments are more expensive than houses. So if your comparing based on sq/m housing is not becoming more affordable. It is also unrealistic to suggest that by having a train line the housing around it will become more affordable. With all the developments that have occurred in the Sydney Area in recent years only 1% has been provided as affordable housing.

Will there be savings on greenhouse emissions as areas that become more densely populated? Apartments are being built requiring more reliance on clothes dryers, air conditioning, heaters and lighting. This is because of overshadowing, effects of wind tunnelling and the disruption to natural airflows caused by the large developments. Waste management in new developments is also being under compensated for. As lifestyles are changing, eating takeaway meals and or pre-made meals is increasing, resulting in more household waste. This in turn is creating an ongoing destruction of the environment and contributing to increases in greenhouse gases. Instead of tumbleweeds blowing down the street like the Wild West we are now watching litter. People's bins are overflowing. The amount of bins supplied to apartment blocks is insufficient for the amount of waste being created. The only ones benefiting from the overflowing bins are the ibis's, rats and cockroaches. I don't think the smells from the overflowing bins will assist in providing the vibrant village feel that people are looking for.

It seems that it is too late to argue about all the costs and benefits from the metro line as the project is full steam ahead, blinkers on and head down. This only leaves me to raise the concerns I have regarding the impact Stage 1 construction of the Five Dock Station will have.

CONCERNS AND IMPACTS

1. Concerns regarding Use of the East Construction Zone

I have made inquiries to Metro West regarding the actual need for the Eastern Construction Zone. The only information I have been provide with is the actual construction site size and that there will be fresh air tunnel ventilation and a station services building. A concern is do they actual require the site if they don't know the size, type or where the building or the cavern for the ventilation is going to be located? My concern with Metro West not providing this information is it feels like they are withholding information from the public. Is this so once approval for civil construction of excavation and tunnelling is given it's an easier process for Metro West to seek approvals for structures and or to do modifications? Is there an ulterior motive as to what the Eastern Construction Zone will eventually be used for? Will the site only ever be used for a Station Service Building and Fresh Air Ventilation?

In addition to not being able to provide where the structures are going to be located on the Eastern Construction Zone, how far from 110 Great North Roads boundary will the Station Service buildings and or cavern be? What type of stabilising method is being implemented to guarantee that no

damage and no undermining will occur to the footing system of the building at 110 Great North Road? If any damage does occur, what is the rectification policy and process and how are those affected fairly compensated?

2. Concerns regarding Traffic Flow

The entrance for residents and visitors parking at 110 Great North Road is via Second Avenue. I have concerns the number of vehicles that will be using Second Ave will have a server impact on residences, their visitors, businesses and their customers. Having had to work near other construction sites, delays can be substantial and has a large impact on people's daily lives. I will be affected when taking my daughter to and from Abbotsford Public School. I will be affected when I take my daughter to and from her after school activities. My wife will be affected going to and from her work. My wife comes home for lunch, any delays entering or existing the building will reduce her lunch breaks and or make her late in returning to work. I will be affected when going to and from work. The delays are significant to people who have to enter and leave the building numerous times throughout the day. We are not talking about inconveniences for a few weeks or a month, we are talking about years.

An additional concern regarding traffic is, once the Acoustic Shed is built large trucks will be able to operate 24hrs a day. How are residences going to obtain a sufficient and an adequate amount of sleep? The noise from large trucks can produce noise levels of between 80db to 100db compared with a normal night-time noise level of below 30db.

The transport and traffic flow will further be impacted if the project, (the Member for Drummoyne Mr John Sidoti is involved with) at 120-124 Great North Road commences while the construction of the Five Dock Metro Station is occurring. Traffic on Second Ave will be an absolute nightmare. I don't believe Metro West has sufficiently looked into the Transport and Traffic issues around the construction zones of Five Dock Metro Station and the impact it will have on nearby residences.

3. Concerns of Works Affecting the building at 110 Great North Road

I am concerned the building at 110 Great North Road is in a major zone of influence for the construction of Metro West. As a result the building would face a higher potential for both cosmetic and structural damage. Currently I'm dealing with being a business owner in the Mascot Towers and am frustrated by Premier Gladys Berejiklian telling the news when the evacuation occurred "whoever is responsible will be held accountable". A year on and no one has been held accountable and the building still hasn't been fixed. The only people paying the price are the residents, the lot owners, and the business located within the building. This is not only a financial burden, but also an emotional burden. In the EIS the Metro West maintains that due to technology that there is unlikely to be any damages. Unlikely does not mean it is a 100 percent guarantee. I find this very arrogant and show's a flippant attitude towards properties around the construction zones. Even if there is a small chance of damage occurring, what needs to be answered is, if damage does occur how will it be remedied quickly and fairly? This needs to be provided to owners, residents and business so they don't have to go through the same trauma the people at Mascot Towers are going through. Besides the potential for damage a bigger concern is the bureaucracy and time it takes to have damage remedied. This in itself causes extra stress, anxiety and puts the people affected in a state of limbo despair, feeling let down by the system.

4. Concerns of Vibrations and Noise effecting Health and Lifestyle

Metro West advised us to look at other Metro Stations that are currently under construction to see what a Construction Zones looks like. I've visited the Metro site at Victoria Cross Station and it is hard to compare the situation there with Five Dock. North Sydney is a major commercial hub, where Five Dock is still considered a small village community. The buildings at both locations have been built differently to deal with their environments. The building at 110 Great North Rd has been built relying mainly on natural ventilation and using minimal thickness glass for windows and sliding doors. North Sydney buildings are mainly high rises that rely more on mechanical ventilation and use thicker glass. The use of mechanical ventilation and thicker glass allows for a better barrier in dealing with noise. It is impossible to close all windows and doors at 110 Great North Rd as there will be insufficient air circulation within the apartments. Also due to the thickness of glass there would be little impact on noise reduction, even if all the windows and glass doors could be closed. Additionally the majority of buildings around the Victoria Cross site are more commercial buildings which will only be affected by noise during the day as there won't be anyone there during the night.

Vibrations can have a server impact on the human comfort level. Even if noise levels are low you can still feel vibrations reverberate through your body, making it hard to concentrate and relax. If occurring at night it will make it impossible to sleep. I am concern the vibration levels from such works as installation of piles and the excavation will have an adverse impact on my families life. Metro West have stated as soon as the Acoustic Shed is up, that excavation and spoil removal will commence 24 hours a day. In the Metro Wests information booklet they have indicated even with the Acoustic Shed we will still be affect by noise and vibration. Nosie and Vibration though construction may sit below the level of damage to hearing. However I have concerns the impact it will have on the mental health of someone dealing with it day in day out.

Even though the song "Don't Worry be Happy" is a happy feel good song, If it was put on repeat day after day nonstop, it would make the happiest of people have a breakdown. It would be considered a type of mental torture. My concerns are the impact continually noise and vibration will have on increasing anxiety, depression, high blood pressure and reducing concentration. These impacts will eventually wear the body down, causing mental and physical health problems. During the night the normal noise level for our apartment is under 30dB during the day it is usually between 43 to 47dB. I work from home one day a week to catch up on office work. I do this so I can concentrate and focus while not being disturbed. My daughter has extra curricula actives from home such as, violin lessons, singing lessons and Thai lessons. I have concerns she will be effect by the noise and vibrations, making it hard for her to focus and concentrate, essential affect her ability to learn. Our apartment is currently a peaceful area for us to escape to and relax away from work. With the Metro West project going 24hours a day this will be completely lost.

5. Concerns of Overshadowing and Losing Our Outlook

I have concerns about the adverse impact that the Acoustic Shed on the Eastern Construction Zone and future structures will have on our outlook from our apartment and the other apartments within the building. Our apartment only has an Easterly aspect with views up to Five Dock Park. Receiving sunlight from when the sun comes up over Five Dock Park until the early afternoon.

The Acoustic Shed that is planned for the Eastern Construction Zone will run parallel to our apartment and building. Our only view will be a great big shed wall. We will have no other view from our apartment. One of the reasons we moved into the apartment was for the peaceful outlook and the numerous amounts of fauna and flora in the area.

In addition to losing our outlook the Acoustic Shed will cause a significant amount of overshadowing. Our apartment is on the top floor of the building, with the balcony 7 meters off the ground. The proposed Acoustic Shed will be built 7 meters from our balcony and windows and will be almost five storeys high (or 15 meters). We were informed by the experts working on Metro West that there is a potential for some overshadowing. Not being an expert even I can tell there will be a substantial amount of overshadowing. The experts also said we will get the afternoon sun. How can we receive afternoon sun if the apartment only has an Easterly aspect? The overshadowing will have a large impact on our lives. We don't have a clothes dryer as we dry our laundry on the balcony, it will be hard to dry our laundry. Sunlight coming into the apartment is also important as it works as a disinfectant and a bactericide, reducing the life cycle of viruses, bacteria's and mould within the apartment. We also have plants on our balcony which will also be affected by the reduced exposure to sunlight.

6. Concerns of effect on Air Flow, Air Quality and Dust

I have concerns that during the construction there will be a severe impact on the air quality and airflow into our apartment. As our apartment only has an Easterly aspect we don't receive any cross ventilation and can only rely on the easterly breeze to provide wind driven air to achieve adequate natural ventilation. The natural ventilation is important for numerous reasons such as providing a high level of comfort, a constant supply of fresh air, reducing the build-up of unpleasant smells and helping to minimise excessive moisture. Small apartment buildings rely more on natural ventilation rather than mechanical ventilation. This raises two major concerns.

One concern is on visiting the area around the Victoria Cross South Construction Zone there was a noticeable build-up of dust and dirt on the buildings next to the Construction Zone. This was even with signs stating that water misters were being used. Who pays for this to be cleaned, the person who causes the mess or the person affected by the mess? I'm concerned that there will be a substantial amount of dust that will impact on our lives. As we rely only on the natural ventilation, we are unable to have our doors and windows closed. I believe this will cause a large amount of dust and debris to be blown into our apartment, our underground garage and other apartments within the building. We also dry our laundry on the balcony, if there is a large amount of dust, where will we then be able to dry our laundry.

The second concern is once the 5 storey Acoustic Shed is built, it will block the natural airflow into the apartment. We will then be faced with the issue that there will be no natural ventilation. This will make the air in the apartment still and stale, causing the apartment to become stuffy. Besides increasing stress this will create additional health and safety risks. Residents will be more susceptible to colds and flus, fatigue, headaches, allergies, dizziness, shortness of breath and nausea. Overall the blocking of the natural airflow will cause extremely high levels of discomfort.

7. Additional Minor Concerns

In other construction sites I've had to work near there have been numerous cases of workers drinking alcohol, urinating, and vomiting in both public areas and private property. This along with leaving large amounts of rubbish behind has led to a number of community residents frustrate, having to deal with being abused and harassed by drunken workers. In addition workers that travel to the construction sites via vehicle occasionally parked their vehicles on private property and or obstructed access to private property. I'm concerned that this will also occur around the Five Dock Construction Sites.

My final concern relates to if the project takes longer than anticipated. What are the consequences if the projects timeline blows out? Will this mean people that are severely impacted by the construction of the Metro West just have to put up with it?

To me there a numerous impacts that Metro West Team seems to gloss over and say that there will be only a minimal impact. I feel that the Metro West has not look deeply enough into how much of an impact construction will have on residences in major zones of influence. Words such as, unlikely, minor, shouldn't have or little effect, seems to be popular words used by experts. Are these words used so if there is an impact then they simple say "sorry we didn't think there would be such an impact"?

The major worry is not just the above concerns occurring, but the denying that there is an impact. A person impacted then has to go through a long drawn out process to show they have been affected. The people affected have to spend their own time and money to have any impact fixed. This put additional stress on themselves and their family. The people involved with the project can go home to nice peaceful residence for a quite night's sleep, not fully understanding how big an impact the construction can have on people's lives.