

REF: Application: SSI 7485 – Rozelle Interchange MOD 2 - The Crescent overpass and active transport links



The image above shows a 3D render of the proposed 'MOD 2' design.

SSI 7485 proposes a visual eyesore further alienating Rozelle and Annandale communities.

The flyover is a physical, psychological and ugly visual barrier that serves to further isolate local communities. It is completely unnecessary given that there are other alternatives that would solve the anticipated congestion at the Crescent/City West Link intersection.

It hardly needs stating that opponents of WestConnex had long ago drawn the Government's, the RMS and the Department of Transport, Assessment and Planning Services attention to the obvious problems of traffic congestion at the White Bay/City West Link/Anzac Bridge/Victoria Road junctions that radiating freeways such as WestConnex pose.

With at least 42 lanes of traffic converging here the inevitable chaos was glaringly evident to all, except it seems to those charged with assessing the merits of this unwise, deleterious and short-sighted toll road project.

SSI 7485 is a significant breach of a promise given by the then Premier Baird in 2016.

The community was given a firm promise by Premier Baird that the Rozelle Interchange would be constructed underground.

This was in response to the community outrage at the originally proposed LA style spaghetti junction.

There are hundreds of thousands of Sydney residents who are genuine in their belief that radial freeways, tolled or otherwise, will actually worsen congestion in those suburbs on the edge of the CBD and do little to improve Sydney's overall traffic congestion.

Many of these people were reassured by Premier Baird's promise that the Rozelle Interchange would be entirely constructed underground; and so took no further part in the continuing community opposition to this ill-advised project.

This amendment flies in the face of the premier's promise. It is a major breach of trust and can only be seen as completely disregarding the wishes of the local and the wider Sydney community.

SSI 7485 has been part of the RMS's plans for months but was never brought to the attention of the public.

Buried in the EIS for the Western Harbour Tunnel were plans indicating that this flyover was essentially a fiat accompli. The legality of this deceit needs to be challenged and the exhibition phase be put on hold until the matter is investigated and the issue resolved.

SSI 7485 makes a mockery of both the pretext of community engagement and the EIS.

Proposing such a major change at the last minute is in essence a denial of justice. The short exhibition phase gives little time for the community to adequately assess the proposal, to determine and evaluate an acceptable response and to offer a less pernicious alternative.

SSI 7485 removes the direct cycle and pedestrian link from the proposed park to the Annandale foreshore.

Although an indirect link is included in the proposal to construct an elevated flyover, its path is problematic for a number of reasons.

- (i) The proposed elevated route from the Rozelle goods yard park to the foreshore is significantly longer, about 6 times as long, than the originally proposed green link crossing the City West Link in the vicinity of the now destroyed Buruwan Park.
- (ii) The gradients that ascending and descending this proposed path presents will ensure significantly less accessibility for mothers with prams. This will inevitably mean that they will have to navigate the surface level crossings at the Crescent.

- (iii) The elimination of the originally proposed short and direct green link forces pedestrians to cross 5 sets of traffic lights to access either the RGYP (Rozelle Goods Yard Park) or the Annandale foreshore.
- (iv) The elevation of the flyover brings both pedestrians and cyclists near to the level of the top of the three adjacent exhaust stacks. In periods of atmospheric inversions, common in spring and autumn and especially so in winter months, coupled with a low mixing height - conditions that can persist for days on end - will ensure that the toxic carcinogenic plumes from these three stacks will seriously impact on the health of both pedestrians and cyclists seeking access to and from the RGYP and the Annandale foreshore.

I suggest that:

- That the amendment in its present form be rejected.
- That an investigation be undertaken to determine why **SSI 7485** was included in the WHT EIS before **SSI 7485** was exhibited and approved.
- That the originally proposed direct green link be reinstated.
- That congestion at the Crescent/City West Link be alleviated by constructing a tunnel network to connect Crescent traffic to both Victoria Road and the Anzac Bridge, thus doing away with the flyover/overpass proposed in **SSI 7485**.
- That further tree removal be halted in Buruwan Park and that the park be reinstated to again provide a much needed green space for North Annandale residents and shade adjacent to the Light Rail station.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Martin