

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Name: Ms Annette Keay

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Dear parliament,

I live with my family at Alison road. We are across the road from the racecourse and now also the light rail.

There are key points I would like to make. I would like to point out that the entire experience has left me feeling without a voice. Engagement with residents like myself occurred only once major decisions had been made and our voice was worthless. Big business like the racecourse were much better placed, having the resources to be involved when engagement was able to be listened to. In future I hope the government will actively engage residents to listen to reasonable concerns and work with them to find liveable solutions.

I regularly receive notifications about work to be conducted in our area. I no longer read these as they are VERY non specific and actually provide little insight into what work will occur and how we might be affected. There has to be a better way?

Loss of off street parking:

We lost the parking lane at the front of our properties. This has meant that there is very little parking adjacent to our property. We fight with commuters, tafe students and the motor mechanics business daily to obtain parking. This will only get worse once the light rail is up and running and more commuters will access the all day parking. More resident timed parking would assist with this problem.

The footpath is now dangerous. Cyclists, (and I mean mostly middle aged men in Lycra) ride at speed along the footpath directly at my front gate. Due to the gate opening onto the footpath there is very poor visibility. I have lost count of the times me or my children have almost been hit. I have complained to the council who date this is a police issue. I have rung the police assistance line and registered my complaint however joust this morning I was almost taken out again. What will it take to stop them? A child hit and hurt?

We have been in contact with both the light rail team and the council requesting consideration be given to installing greenery on the road side. Despite trying to work with the light rail nothing to make this space green again and liveable these requests have fallen on deaf ears. There is still opportunities for this to be undertaken.

Poor communication and disregard for residents.

Lastly I received a visit from a light rail officer in February informing me that the garden we had planted out the front of the property had to be removed in two weeks time or it would be destroyed. I took the plants I wanted and put a note up inviting others in the neighbourhood to take any other pots, noting a new garden will be coming soon. Well it is now almost July and no action has been taken by the light rail. This has been really disappointing.

I am actually an advocate for the light rail. I understand it's capacity to transport students to UNSW and the local population is building for the future.

I just wish I could have been listened to along the way, so that my residence is liveable like it used to be.

With thanks

Annette Keay