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North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy - feedback

I was present at the Department of Planning NWRL Corridor Strategy meeting held at Cherrybrook Uniting Church. Some of my issues are described below:

Lack of consultation

I am a local resident who supports the building of the NWRL. At no time did I know that the Department of Planning was developing a Corridor Strategy nor am I aware of any community consultation process. Public notice of the meeting was very poor, relying as it did on advertisements in local papers, publications that are rarely read. At the very least there should have been a letterbox drop to notify local residents about the meeting.

The plan is not sensitive to the local situation

The proposed Cherrybrook Station is to be located in a residential area. It does not support a commercial hub. Other residential areas where stations are located have not been required to increase their housing density such as Cheltenham, Beecroft, Thornleigh and Normanhurst. The existing infrastructure is unable to support a large influx of new residents. Local schools are congested and have been ever since I moved here more than 30 years ago before Cherrybrook existed.

Roadways in the north side of Castle Hill Road are constrained by inadequate connections and poorly linked roadways just as in the south side, yet this lack of connectivity is listed as a deterrent to further development in the south side and not in the north.

Castle Hill Road, New Line Road and County Drive all suffer from congestion 6 days a week in the mornings and afternoons. While the existence of the rail line should take some cars off the road, the addition of a further 1,800 residents plus the pressure of commuter traffic utilising the rail line will increase the local traffic burden

High rise buildings along Castle Hill Road will result in increased vehicle access both entering and leaving the apartments creating further impact on the traffic flow along this road.

Topography issues north of Castle Hill Road

Castle Hill road is built along a ridge and any development should be managed with caution because of the knock on impact it might have. Previous developments have created problems for other residents in this area. Building the water storage tank has caused both immediate and long term problems for nearby residents. The land was levelled, a structure with a large roof was built and every time there is a severe rain storm the water run off creates flooding and damage to gardens on the downhill side.

My recommendation

If increased residential development is to be allowed it should be delayed until the impact of the rail station on local roads has been measured and remediated.

At best only town houses should be allowed, not multistorey buildings.