

My comment is in relation to the focus of public discussion of the project and the development opportunities likely to be lost because of the lack of public debate. There has been substantial public debate about residential densities and apartment heights. There has also been some discussion of shopping centres as well as some transport and visual impacts. Other aspects of the developments associated with this project have had very little public discussion. The issues that have been discussed are important issues, particularly for those within the development precincts, but this is an important project for all of The Hills and my concern is that opportunities resulting from these development will be lost without a more balanced public discussion.

In particular, I am concerned that The Hills does not have a quality venue to support entertainment and the performing arts. The inclusion of such a venue, perhaps like the Seymour Centre, would create excellent opportunities for all of The Hills. A performing arts and entertainment venue associated with a station development would ensure the viability of the venue by making events accessible by train and bus as well as making additional use of station parking.

The development of an entertainment and performing arts venue in The Hills at a location separate from the developments associated with this project would not make sense. Such a development needs to be included and discussed in this initial phase before the opportunity is lost. I do note there is general discussion of this issue in the planning reports. Without public discussion and debate, I remain concerned that this potential development opportunity will not be converted to a development proposal and the opportunity will be lost.

Projects such as the North West Rail Link will always generate significant public discussion. However that discussion has been dominated by a limited number of important issues that have unfortunately excluded discussion of other opportunities for the broader community.

Steven Jones
3 Maybush Way
Castle Hill 2154
0407075113