



PCU064745

1 Cairo Street
South Coogee NSW 2034

29th March 2016

Executive Director
Resource Assessments and Business Systems
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2000

Re : Revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines

Dear Sir / Madam

I strongly object to any changes that would limit and / or constrain Community Consultation in any areas, including State Significant projects. The only changes should be for genuine consultation (and not only with selected 'stakeholders') leading to **real participation** for an outcome sympathetic to local concerns.

Current community consultation.

My experience of current practices comes from the planning and now the work for the CBD and SELR. This is most relevant to me with the SELR because of its impact on cherished public parklands. This is public land of the highest order. I most strongly believe that the Centennial Parklands are an area of greatly significant heritage and environmental value. I believe that the tree-lined streets of Randwick beside Royal Randwick Racecourse are of extremely high value. Obviously the unfolding of the SELR is being shown to be highly destructive to this whole area. **Banners in Moore Park proclaim 2016 as the 150th year of 'The People's Park' - as trees along Anzac Parade are being felled, and preparations are being made to divert the 6 lanes of Anzac Parade and the bus road through Moore Park.**

My experience of Community Consultation comes from public meetings for the SELR. Representation from the community is obviously limited to only a few chosen to participate in the larger Committee. We did vote for 3 Community representatives who reported back to following meetings, but then that all came to an end.

There was great public concern with anticipated impacts at those meetings. Co-ordinators at those meetings seemed to try to impose rules of conduct, rather than allowing the Government and Consortium representatives to honestly take on board the great community concern. I understand that the design of the project and the environmental management is now largely the responsibility of the Company as the work proceeds.

Apparent lack of concern for the public interest, and the public voice, in regard to the SELR.

The unfolding of work being undertaken for the project is not lessening community concern and anger. There has been widespread dismay at the removal of trees and the lack of concern for heritage. Aspects of the SELR project that are seen to be very much at odds with the public interest include the following :

- * the surprising change of the route in Alison Road, with the subsequent clear-felling of trees;
- * the signing of the contract before that submission period closed;
- * the misleading statements about tree replacement;
- * the selling of Centennial Park land that had been leased to the ATC;
- * the changes to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act seemingly allowing Transport for NSW to take, or take control of any part(s) of the Parklands;
- * the location of stops indicating the strong influence of key 'vested interests';
- * the surprising decision to move the 6 lanes of Anzac Parade and the bus road into Moore Park for the convenience of construction;
- * the building of the Albert 'Tibby' Cotter Bridge that is virtually unused, at a cost of \$38million. (This also resulted in the removal of the Anzac memorial obelisk.)
- * the seeming lack of concern for impacts on local businesses.

There seem to be a lot of things wrong in the above list of 'disasters'. They are obviously all things that would



p. 1/2

be regarded critically by the community. They are all things that could have been avoided or done better. More than \$2.1 billion is being spent on the CBD and SELR. Obviously a lot of the land for the route is free since Moore Park land is simply being acquired. (If in the Government's view 'the end justifies the means' it is not good enough.)

State Significant Infrastructure.

I understand that projects classified as SSI are protected from any appeal. Presumably any proposal could be labelled as SSI - I have seen a 2-day music festival at Randwick Racecourse identified as SSI.. Community Consultation must be able to be seen as a genuine process, with concern for local impacts being respected. **Projects should be open to Modification in the public interest.** The Modification for the SELR that moved the stop to the other side of Alison Road was in the interest, and at the wish, of the Racecourse. The Modification that has moved the interchange from High Cross Park to High Street is definitely a positive (although the substation will still be in the Park, Randwick ratepayers paying for its undergrounding I understand. The traffic consequences for Avoca Street would have been disastrous without this change).

It is simply not right to further limit the public voice. Even though having only an advisory, not decision-making status, Community Consultative Committees must be included as an authentic voice. Removing Community Consultation from projects, limiting it to only parts of a project and / or imposing strict rules for conduct should have no part in our democratic society. It is fundamentally wrong that "critical" SSI projects, where there is public concern (as with this taking of Public Parkland and presumably with some mining projects) can exclude community comment that should be listened to and should be seen to have an impact.

Yours sincerely



Vivien Ward