

## **INQUIRY INTO CROSS CITY TUNNEL**

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

## **Submission to Cross City Tunnel lodged by Robyn Hall**

Two thousand Local East Sydney Residents have signed a petition to reopen Bourke Street to the south as a vital access route to East Sydney and Paddington - a wide two laned public road closed for the last six months. Business are going broke, locals are angry as their narrow one way roads daily used as rat runs - the media are aware and following the issues. Darlinghurst Road is a shambles.

Vital emergency services are impacted daily, fire and ambulance as they struggle to reach their destination - with an obstacle course of closed roads and people in urgent need of their services.

We also find it out of order that such surveys should be undertaken before the general public is aware, and run still within the holiday period so as to suggest the problems have gone away and people are now happy.

They are not, not, not and never will be with the way they have stressed their lives in access to our city and local streets. Anger is alive and well and likely to increase until something is done. The matter is far from over.

Many (off the record) as public servants, say it is a disaster for emergency services, with pathetic, minimal consultation, told rather than listened to, as roads are narrowed with heavy traffic daily to contend with.

Darlinghurst Road narrowed now with roadworks blocking pavements outside the Darlinghurst Fire Station is another hazard - this, because of a gas leak we are told, has been in the same state for months - the local newsagent open 24 hours a day has had his business hit, like many others with financial loss and nothing done, nor courtesy observed.

The Elan footpath has been left in a terrible state for months with barriers up - nothing done...

The new trees planted are clogged with garbage and some look as if they are dying - there is real anger in the Eastern Suburbs the way the tunnel has impacted on daily life unfairly and for no good reason.

The Boulevard was more attractive and easy before the paving started, now it is chaotic.

The tunnel only services those needing to go out of the city, not into it and the Eastern Suburbs are very very angry indeed, facing traffic chaos daily during business, on streets which once flowed well.

This has had a severe flow-on effect back as far as Rose Bay and up into Paddington -

The road narrowing has been unnecessary - the pavements which were wide enough servicing the locals well, with an unlikelyhood of coffee bars and busy shops - many have been empty for years, there is no need in this windswept street. They only needed repaving and the mature trees were loved, but chopped down in their prime.

The Champse Elysee road is much wider with narrower paving, I know. It was not necessary to be so brutal.

The Community clearly told the authorities how thrilled they would be with trees, whilst being kept in the dark about the closure of two lanes either way...I was at the meeting as many of my neighbours, the lane closures were never discussed.

Taxi Drivers who are a good barometer could tell the tale countless times, the costs to the elderly and frail have doubled since the closures went into place - it has cost the community plenty, for what?

Town Hall may be intent on ridding the city of the car, but in the end the business of the city will be destroyed. It is blinkered thinking by Clover Moore who signed off on this with some Independents.

The proposed closure of Liverpool at College is another nonsense idea of the tiny ESNA lobby (about 15 people) who with Sceggs School forced this situation at Town Hall, despite a refusal on voting to accept these closures by the bulk of the residents it was forced on us, as a "trial" like everything else.

A case action by stressed business is being considered - loss of income loss of access - for the "enclosed village concept" Will it be a dead village, or a vibrant community of business, residents and restaurants.

There is danger too with the road changes, particularly trying to access Paddington from the new ramps merging into other traffic, is terrifying to say the least and been the scene of accidents. It is in short dangerous.

Paddington residents are furious as are inner city and Darling Point and Edgecliff, who find obstacles everywhere they drive - for what - to access a tunnel they dont need to go to the City, whilst the top road to William is hard to negotiate and packed with problems not thought out.

Its time the powers that be listened to the locals and not planners who do not live here.

It looks like the third word currently as month after month we are submitted to more tree felling, and hideous wide paving, constantly being dug up and redone....

Its time the general public's needs were met. In Bourke St, the curb crawling of prostitutes is a policing matter, not a road closure issue, its a main thoroughfare afterall.

I have had two two trucks and a fire engine struck on a narrow corner of a narrow one way street for an hour since the closure of Bourke, too bad if a real emergency had occurred - its time for real responsibility - not just political point scoring. We live Here.

Robyn Hall -  
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Resident of 25 years