

31 March 2017

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP  
Minister for Transport  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Constance,

**Re: Light Rail impacts on Devonshire St, Surry Hills**

I write on behalf of a number of residents of Surry Hills so that you are aware of their concerns about the impacts of the current Light Rail construction on Devonshire St, Surry Hills. While there is strong community support for government investment in public transport infrastructure like the Light Rail, residents have raised a number of issues about the delivery of the project.

From the correspondence received by my office, it is clear that residents are extremely concerned about the loss of amenity for Devonshire St and surrounds. The loss of a number of trees and greenspace has had a huge impact of residents, who report feelings of despair at this destruction of their once beautiful street.

The current proposal for the length of carriages is also a cause for concern for many residents. I understand that a review is underway which looks into the possibility of decoupling the carriages in non-peak times. Anything to address this concern would be most welcome.

As our office has previously raised with you, there is overwhelming community support for a second stop to be added at Wimbo Park. This additional stop would address several access issues and would ensure that the local community is properly serviced by the project. I acknowledge your previous commitment to future proof the site however given the impact of further construction on residents, wouldn't we just do it now?

Concerns about pedestrian safety, parking issues and chaotic traffic conditions have also been consistently raised with our office. Residents have reported feeling extremely unsafe due to heavy machinery very close to the footpath and poor traffic planning creating dangerous situations for pedestrians. The area in question is already a maze of one way streets and the daily changes to the traffic conditions are causing a major headache for road users.

Many residents have expressed concern about the impact this construction is having on local businesses. The extreme reduction in parking, confusing pedestrian access,

construction noise and lack of loading zones is having a noticeable effect on these businesses. We have heard from a number of people who are concerned that the business will not survive.

Residents of the Public Housing apartments along Devonshire St have contacted our office about the extreme noise and vibrations caused by the construction. While most residents understand that this is necessary, there has been widespread disappointment at the response from ALTRAC and Acciona employees when they have raised these concerns. Some tenants have even reported being threatened by contractors when approached to conduct noise mitigation and the measures themselves have been reported to be extremely inadequate.

I urge you to take action to address these important concerns expressed by the community. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jenny Leong MP**  
**Member for Newtown**