

24 Barry Road  
KELLYVILLE NSW 2155

12 May 2010

The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Rudd

## **SUBMISSION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE NORTHWEST HEAVY RAIL SYSTEM NOW.**

We in the Northwest of Sydney are being seriously disadvantaged and discriminated against by the lack of heavy rail infrastructure. We are sick of being misled by successive state Labor governments who tell us that we are going to have heavy rail - originally Mr Carr said we would have the railway in Castle Hill by 2010. We have been promised a Northwest rail no less than six times since 1998 by State Labor Governments. **The latest transport plan released by the current Premier indicates that the Northwest rail will not be commenced until 2017. Mr Rudd, this is a disgrace, we want the Federal government to grant the NSW government the funds through Infrastructure Australia to commence building the Northwest rail now. The taxpayers of the Northwest deserve nothing less.**

It is vital that Sydney has strong public transport infrastructure, without it you have a city that is completely unsustainable and unlivable. There is no option regarding providing the funds for a heavy rail system to the Northwest of Sydney. **Mr Rudd you have already told the Australian people that we can expect to have a very significant increase in population and it appears from your own words that you heartily approve of this population increase. We are badly lacking in public transport infrastructure in Sydney now, it beggars belief that you would not see the need to fund the heavy Northwest rail when we are obviously going to be one of the principal areas to bear the brunt of increased population. It is already a nightmare trying to travel in a traffic gridlock just to get to work every day. It is sickening to the people here in the Northwest when we see money that is being spent elsewhere for far less critical purposes and in some cases it appears to us as just taxpayers money wasted. There are people who travel to work every day on the road who are paying \$90 a week only in road tolls to get to work because there is no public transport.**

**The State Government had an Environmental Assessment and Concept Plan done in 2006 for the Northwest rail link so there is no excuse not to start this railway immediately, thereby creating a large number of jobs. The patronage estimated for the Northwest Rail Link (GHD Pty Ltd for TIDC, 2006) ranged from 50,000 to 80,000 passengers per day.**

The Northwest Rail Link catchment is an area that is well advanced in its development, both in terms of population and employment. **This proposed Link services areas that in some cases have been established for some 20 years and it traverses one of the fastest growing Local Government Areas in Sydney (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) , 2009b).**

There are 60,000 residents leaving the Hills Shire each day to go to work – with about 28,000 coming in. **Ninety six per cent of these daily commuters must use private vehicles because of the lack of public transport.** The Hills district has one of the highest car occupancy rates in Australia. The Northwest will accommodate an additional 54,640 dwellings and 61,180 jobs in the next 10 years.

This would be in keeping with your expressed desire to reduce carbon pollution if you would give top priority to heavy rail. **Providing heavy rail in the Northwest, which is one of the principal growth areas of Sydney now and in the future, will result in 10,000 plus cars off the road every day.** Car exhaust emissions are a major contributors of air pollution and as such is a huge cause of ill health and consequently the reduction of cars on the road would result in reduced spending of the medical dollar.

Not only would pollution be reduced by having a Northwest heavy rail system but the consequent reduction in oil usage would be significant. **Northwest Sydney desperately needs a heavy rail system to move workers and residents quickly, efficiently and most important cleanly.** Mr Rudd, we know that you are concerned about reducing the carbon footprint in Australia and you could not do anything that would be more beneficial in every respect for the people of Northwest Sydney, **which is one the largest growth areas in Australia,** than to provide us with a heavy rail system. We have paid our taxes and deserve nothing less..

**How can Sydney absorb any significant percentage of continuing immigration without appropriate federal funding for the necessary infrastructure?**

Anthony Albanese your Infrastructure Minister is discriminating against the Northwest of Sydney in his funding of \$306 million in Labor seats and only \$211 million in Coalition seats. Of the 137 projects funded:

- \* 84 were in ALP seats
- \* 47 were in Coalition seats
- \* 6 were in independents

This is not a fair distribution of taxpayers money, some areas simply because of their politics are being discriminated against. The principles of democracy seem to be lacking here.

We the people of NSW have seen enough of our GST being handed around to other states when we are badly lacking in infrastructure. It will be good enough for the Federal government to give our taxes to other states but not until our own infrastructure is complete - not until then!

Anyone who says that the provision of buses however numerous will do the job is either totally incompetent or not telling the truth. Buses have an important role but only in support of heavy rail.

Transport has been accurately described as **“the key to all land-use planning”**. Because the truth of that statement is so evident it becomes quite clear that further increases in population in the Northwest area without heavy rail would lead to a city that is unsustainable and unlivable with a disastrous effect on social cohesion.

Yours faithfully

Joan and Ian King