



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Date: 23 May 2018

Corridor Investigation Office
Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
Haymarket NSW 1240

corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au

Re: Submission on the Bells Line of Road – Castlereagh Connection Corridor Study

Dear Sir/Madam

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. Its mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

The Society is very concerned by the perceived intent of this proposal.

Over many years there have been proposals to construct a Bells Line of Road (BLoR) Expressway. We see this new proposed corridor as the next attempt to construct this expressway. One of the most notable aspects of this proposal is the four lane tunnel (with provision for 6 lanes) to link Kurrajong with Kurrajong Heights. This can only be required if the BLoR Expressway is the link at the western end of existing Bells Line of Road, otherwise it is just an over engineered roadway.

It has been proved time and again that a BLoR Expressway is environmentally, economically and socially unviable.

Since previous attempts, nothing has changed to now make the expressway address the limitations previously identified. In fact, the proposal to construct a tunnel within a major geological fault line makes the project almost impossible.

We are concerned that this corridor project also supports the daily movement of residents should more housing be allowed on the Western Sydney floodplain. The raising of Warragamba Dam was originally touted to protect the residents currently living on the floodplain. However, the NSW Government has said the raising of Warragamba Dam will allow them to open 2,355 hectares of western

Sydney floodplains to urban development in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley. This corridor would support that, even though it is being shown that the dam raising will not protect the areas proposed for additional housing.

The corridor itself running across Western Sydney has many negative effects. These include environmental impacts: destruction of more Cumberland Plain Woodland and other Endangered Ecological Communities, with the consequential loss and further decline of fauna using these habitats. There will be social impact on those already living on or immediately beside the proposed route. Economically, the cost to provide a suitably flood proof roadway in much of this corridor will be prohibitive.

In saying this, we do not believe there is any suitable corridor available from the current M2/M7 Motorways to the escarpment, as the environmental, social and economic costs are too high.

We can only suggest that the Government look at upgrading the current road systems to provide for better flow through and flood evacuation routes.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madi Maclean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Madi Maclean
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
mobile 0412 428 202 or email president@bluemountains.org.au