

Submission for:

Draft Future Transport Strategy

Draft Greater Sydney Services and Infrastructure Plan

Submission by:

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As a resident of Ellis of 50 years I have serious concerns about the impact this proposed route will have on the life of our suburb and the surrounding rural areas including the historic village of Cobbitty.

Increased traffic on Cobbitty Road

Cobbitty Village centres around a cluster of buildings along either side of Cobbitty Road: The General Store; Teen Ranch; Cobbitty Church Hall; St Paul's Church; Heber Chapel; Cobbitty Public School; Cobbitty Bakehouse; Cobbitty Preschool; and Cobbitty Rural Fire Brigade.

Increasing traffic along Cobbitty Road will effectively cut the village in half and diminish the only functional community spaces we have. I fear that having an on/off ramp to the new motorway on the eastern edge of the village will increase the through-traffic coming from the west of the village.

I strongly encourage Transport NSW to look for a way to divert through-traffic around the village of Cobbitty rather than through it.

Impact on the landscape

From what I understand, the proposed orbital will be both a motorway and a freight rail line, will be well over 100m wide and will need to be elevated above the flood plain. Such a massive structure, wrapping so tightly around the village, will dominate the landscape in the following ways:

1. As residents drive west towards the Village along Cobbitty Road, instead of seeing rolling hills, grassy paddocks and tree-lined ridges, we will see the enormous orbital snaking its way north with a very significant cutting through the ridge line.
2. Each time residents enter or leave the village we will need to drive under a very substantial overpass which will be situated approximately 300m east of the General Store.
3. As residents look south from Cobbitty Road, instead of seeing farm land in the foreground and the spire of St John's Camden in the background, the foreground view will now be dominated by the new orbital as it passes through Ellis Lane.

In short, the proposed route for the Orbital will make it the dominant feature of the Cobbitty landscape.

An alternate route

I suggest the alternate route pictured below. Placing the orbital on both the western side of the ridge line and the Village will greatly reduce its impact on the Cobbitty Landscape. Additionally, this route would divert the vast bulk of through-traffic around Cobbitty Village; it is shorter and would require cutting through a much smaller section of ridge line. My suggestion is shown in Orange.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

