

Submission for:
Draft Future Transport Strategy
Draft Greater Sydney Services and Infrastructure Plan

1st December 2017

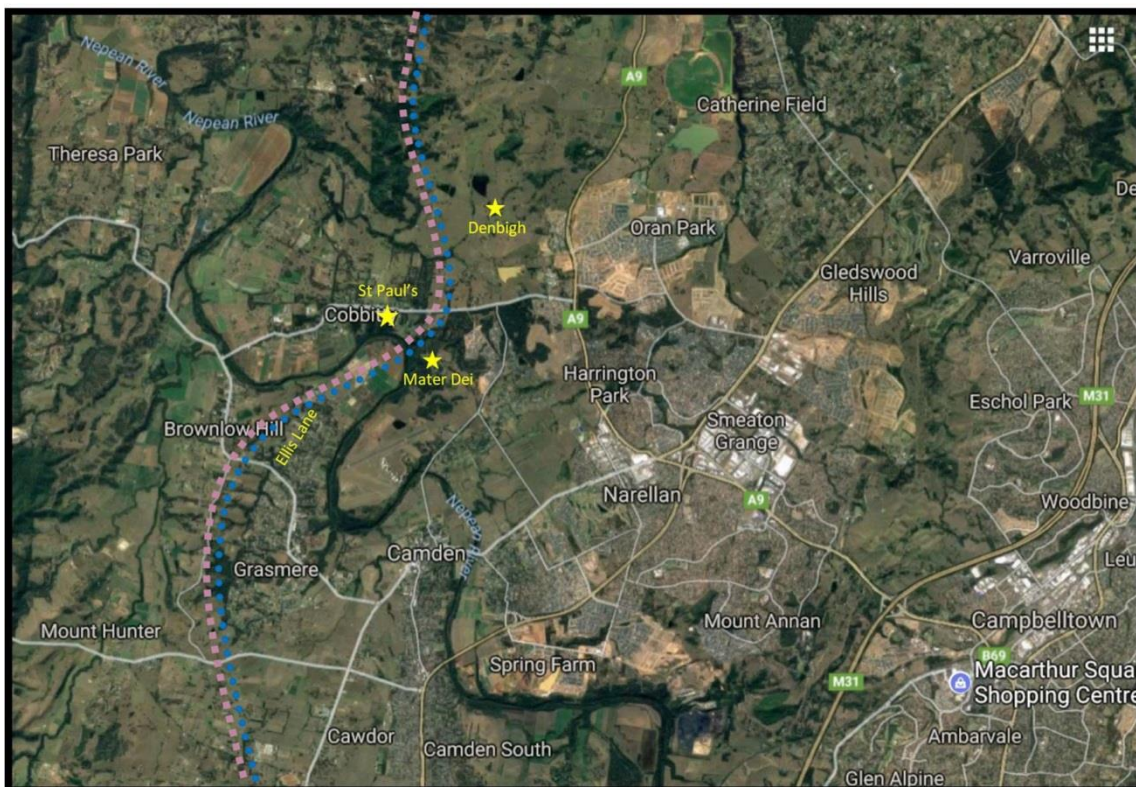
Submission by:
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This Submission concerns the proposed route of the Outer Sydney Orbital as it relates to the Historic Village of Cobbitty, The Historic property of Denbigh and the suburbs of Ellis Lane and Grasmere

Before I look at the possible implications of the proposed motorway and rail I would like to say that I understand that with any progress there will be some form of disruption. The key to this submission though is to challenge the thinking of the current proposed route when considering the impact of the pathway of the route.

I and my family have been residents of Cobbitty for 11 years and I moved my family here for a specific rural lifestyle. I have always wanted to move into the Cobbitty area since I was a child of 12 when I first attended a camp at Teen Ranch. With the proposed route I see a huge change to that lifestyle and one that may force us to consider moving elsewhere.

Please find below my concerns and suggestions.



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.
- It must be noted that traffic flow has already increased over the last 11 years and with the introduction of the motorway there will not only be increased traffic volume but also increased noise from the motorway and railway.
- 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:

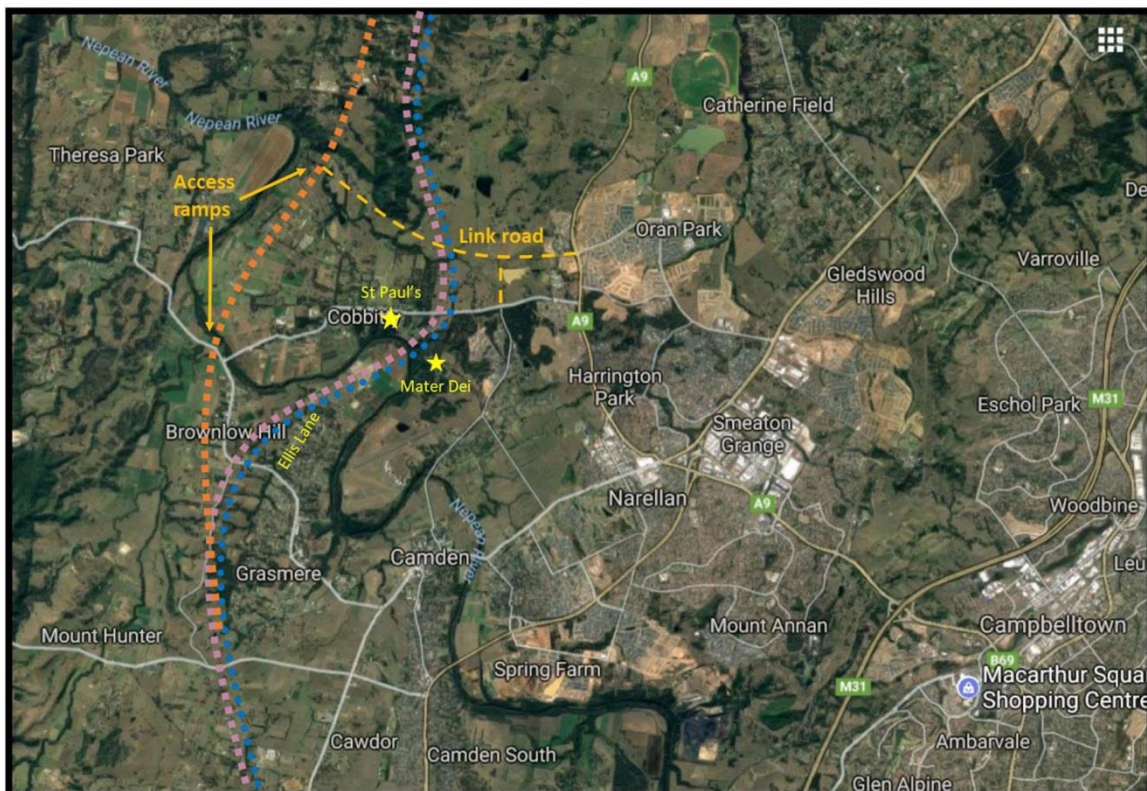
1. As residents drive west towards the Village along Cobbitty Road, instead of seeing rolling hills, grassy paddocks and tree-lined ridges, we will see the enormous orbital snaking its way north with a very significant cutting through the ridge line.
2. Each time residents enter or leave the village 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. The view from Teen Ranch will be dominated and the rural aspect will be lost. There will be impact on the business of Teen Ranch.

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 and Ellis Lane 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 suggestions are shown in Orange.



I appreciate that you have a difficult job on your hands with many competing interests to take into account. Thank you for considering my feedback.

Yours sincerely

[Name removed as requested]