

Date: 30th April 2011

RE: Submission of formal concern regarding the national land freight strategy discussion paper-
File name NLFS_220211

To Whom it May Concern

No Freight Terminal Should be built in Moorebank

1. Too close to the residential area

- Over the last 10 years, the population growth in the Wattle Grove, Holsworthy and Casula area has outpaced the Liverpool region's growth rate (ABS Statistics). Developing a major freight hub will have a significant negative impact on the quality of life of thousands of residents. Australia is a first world country and residents of the area deserve a clean and pollution free community. We don't live in a third world country.
- Research in the US shows that freight inter-modals have caused serious negative health effects to people living within the 10km radius of the terminal. Further, the 2km radius zone is referred to as the "death zone" in the USA literature. I have a young family of four and live in the death zone. In fact I live only 300 meters from the project site. My 8 year old daughter has an acute eczema condition that will get worse with increased diesel fume pollution in the local area. This will make her already serious condition even worse. My 3.5 year old son also suffers from asthma, which I am advised by health professions (Liverpool Hospital) will be adversely affected by increased air pollution. Liverpool region being in a basin is already one of the most air polluted areas in Australia with significant cases of respiratory conditions. My family lives on an average income and we can't afford to move to another area.
- There is no doubt the noise level in my local area will increase significantly and destroy the quality of our peaceful neighbourhood. This proposed site is too close to my home and residential area, a major freight hub like this should be at least 15 km away from a residential precinct.

2. Collateral Damage

- Our house is the single biggest financial asset we have and there is no doubt the project will have a material negative impact on its value. Indeed, the local real estate agents have already experienced widespread selling pressure from concerned residents that's driving the house prices down. This is even before the proposed project has been approved. Once the project is approved, the house values in the area, especially my house being 300 meters from the project site (5 Jenolan Court, Wattle Grove) will have a significant collateral damage. A mark down of 20 to 30% is a conservative estimate based on US experience. The reason houses become less valuable in the area is because the rise in the air and noise pollution will cause adverse health effects on local residents. Any level of analysis by SIMTA cannot prove this otherwise simply because the project does not exist today to assess the true cause and effect on human beings. That is why the US research is important because that's a true case study of the impact of freight hubs on human beings with over 15 years of data. Any ethical body using the USA research will not allow the proposed intermodal to be built so close a residential area. Indeed within five KM radius there is a major hospital, a number of schools including day and childcare centres. How can this project be allowed to proceed? Our kids will be innocent victims of the short sightedness and lack of empathy from the authorities concerned.

3. Community consultation

- The community consultation process has been absolutely abysmal. As a resident living only 300 meters from the site, no authority has ever consulted my family or me. Again, we live in a developed country and not a third world country, our rights and concerns do matter, we have a soul and voice and our conscience is not dead. As the law abiding citizen we know when something is not ethical. The secrecy behind the project and its approval process is appalling to say the least. The SIMTA consultation process was a joke, how can this office that was open for a few months, opening time of 9 hours a week cater for the concerns of the local area with 20,000 residents? Where is the grassroots community consultation process? SIMTA states that its objective is to engage with the local community, but they never attended our community forums. They never came and spoke to me and hear my concerns. The community consultation process has been an absolute failure. I as a resident feel that our voice is not being heard. We live in a democratic society, why are the people of the area treated with no respect?

Thanks

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