

From: brian bruce [mailto:bbruce1960@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, 30 April 2011 3:00 PM
To: Infrastructure Australia
Subject: NLFS-220211

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: White Paper Files NLFS-220211

I am writing to you in order to voice my grave concern over the proposed placing of Intermodal Freight Terminals with the Sydney basin.

. In order for Intermodal Freight Terminals to be both efficient and cost effective, they need to be positioned a minimum of 40 kilometres apart and a similar distance from the port. At present we have the Enfield Terminal only 12 kilometres from Port Botany and the proposed dual Terminal site at Moorebank only 28 kilometres from Port Botany. If this proposal proceeds to completion, the current inefficiencies of Sydney freight movements will be magnified further.

. It would appear that the Moorebank option has received favour due to the apparent lower cost factor. As the land is owned by the Government and portions of the required road and rail infrastructure are already in place. However, a proper and detailed analysis of proposed relocation site for the School of Military Engineering and other Army facilities, will reveal an extremely contaminated site with enormous remediation costs. The current budget allocation will pale into insignificance when it is revealed that to simply move the Army a distance of 2 kilometres will cost in excess of \$1b. This at a time when the Federal Government is attempting to return the budget to surplus.

. Health issues. The Liverpool area, already suffers with very poor air quality and the incidence of respiratory illness is far above the State's average. Because the area is situated in a basin, the air does not move around and away as fast as it otherwise would, therefore pollution remains in the area and residents breathe it. Extensive studies in USA over decades have revealed that residing within a 10 kilometre radius of such facilities has severe health implications leading to a host of diseases, many of which are terminal. The evidence is clear, it is available and it is overwhelming. For any Government to ignore this information is a total dereliction of their duty of care and the cost of litigation for decades to come could run into hundreds of billions of dollars!

. Consultation with local residents. Although this is a prerequisite for infrastructure projects proceeding via Section 3a, the level of consultation provided in respect of the Moorebank projects has been a complete farce. If not for a few local residents, Councilors and local members of Parliament both State and Federal, the local communities would have been left almost totally in the dark. No information has been provided in regards to the impacts of health, environment, noise, light, traffic, the list goes on. It has been left a small group of committed people to glean this information and provide to the community. The official lines of "getting trucks off the road" and "Creating jobs" is an absolute nonsense.

. Intermodal Freight Terminals are important, in fact they are vital as our population grows, the need to move more and more freight grows. However, even proposing to build a project of this size, literally within a couple of hundred metres from large residential communities is irresponsible. Proceeding with such a project in the undeniable knowledge that it will shorten the life span of mums, dads and their children is down right criminal.

. There is alternatives! Build the terminals further out west, away from residential communities where they belong. The USA have realised the error of their ways after paying a terrible human cost. The UK are building such Freight Terminals a minimum of 100 kilometres away from residents.... Why?

. Put simply. This proposal does not stack up on so many fronts. It is time to re-think and develop a sound and efficient Freight strategy for Sydney, NSW and Australia. One that will carry us long onto the future and one that will not destroy peoples lives along the way.

Yours Faithfully,

Brian Bruce
4 Beltana Court
Wattle Grove NSW 2173
041825175