

**From:** Colin Johnston  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 November 2008 9:11 PM  
**Subject:** Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust - Great North Walk - track access under M2 at Devlin's Creek



**B E E C R O F T - C H E L T E N H A M**  
**C I V I C T R U S T**  
I N C O R P O R A T E D  
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Councillor Nick Berman

His Worship the Mayor of Hornsby

Shire Offices

Hornsby

Dear Mayor Nick,

The Trust has received advice from a resident, Mr Ian Noble, that Mr Mohammed Lazki, (Road & Civil Manager, Transurban,) has recently intimated by email in respect of the subject track "... while the track existed before the M2 construction, the current underpass was constructed as an Emergency Vehicle access only. At one stage gates were proposed for the southern side so that pedestrian movement in the area is restricted. The underpass is cleared after every heavy rain as advised by our maintenance contractor BBSA and Photos are taken. The concrete paved footpath was constructed to facilitate the movement of Emergency personnel. We will be installing "No pedestrian Access" signs while doing other maintenance works in the area shortly.

The Trust's initial research shows that no easements for footway appear registered on the subject land title. However, we believe there would be a written agreement in place to manage the above links between Council, the lessee Transurban and the owner, NSW RTA. There is evidence of a proposed easement for emergency vehicles 3.7m wide, proposed rights of footway 1.5m and 3.7m wide next to the vehicle easement, and another proposed right of footway 2m wide on the eastern side of the creek/ tunnel.

There is clear and decisive need for the continuation of this pedestrian access, both as a historical and useful, local pedestrian link, and for its role and as part of the Great North Walk - of notable State significance. Access for vehicles in an emergency - like bushfires - is also essential, even though the crossing does get muddy and rubbish accumulation there can be a problem.

Could you please refer this matter to Council's senior asset management staff and confirm that walking access will not be lost to our community and metropolitan walkers. I have copied this message to Greg Smith SC MP, State Member for Epping; he may be able to assist with representations to the RTA in this regard, if that is required.

Yours sincerely,

*Colin Johnston*

President.