



MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM

**BEECROFT – CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST Inc.**

PO Box 31, BEECROFT, NSW, 2119

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Residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham, are you aware that the proposed North West Rail Link (NWRL) will have serious impacts on our suburbs. The NWRL proposal will:

- **Tunnel** from a dive point near The Crescent and Murray Road under the Beecroft Tennis Courts, The Village Green and Beecroft Public School then continue under parts of Beecroft to Franklin Rd and beyond to Rouse Hill.
- Damage houses and cause disturbance from **noise and vibration** along the route. Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC) confirmed that noise levels during construction may *exceed the human comfort criteria*.
- Cause **sleep disturbance** to residents during construction of the portal dive point from noise and disrupt classes at Beecroft Public School.
- Cause **traffic congestion** from heavy vehicle movements during construction and affect road safety especially for students, being so close to major schools on Beecroft Road.
- Construct **four train lines** from Epping to Beecroft plus an **additional two crossover lines** roughly between Kethel Road and Glenelg Place, making six tracks in that section.
- Require the **rebuilding** of Cheltenham Station and Cheltenham Road bridge and the **widening** of the rail cuttings for the extra two lines between Epping and Beecroft. The bridge will be closed for many months. TIDC claims these lines are required to facilitate through train movements along the main line. Close examination may confirm freight holding lines as the main purpose.

We will not tolerate this environmental destruction being imposed on our heritage suburbs.

There are alternatives which will not have these adverse impacts. A pamphlet ‘**North West Rail Link Planning Update No 2 November 2006**’ from TIDC should have been delivered to all residents within a 250m distance of the proposed railway. It is available from Epping or Pennant Hills Library. Look at Figure 2 which shows the option of taking the tunnel from Epping. **Ask why this option was not examined further.** Community consultation currently being presented by TIDC appears to be overshadowed by need for a predetermined outcome which includes the additional rail lines from Epping to Beecroft.

What you can do

- Inform yourself by **visiting the public exhibition** of the North West Rail Link Proposal at either Epping or Pennant Hills Library or Hornsby Council (Nov 22 06 to 2 Feb 07) to develop understanding of the project and its impacts on our suburbs.
- Urge the **examination of the alternative** option taking the tunnel from Epping Station to avoid the adverse impacts on our suburbs.
- Join the **Civic Trust** to fight proposals that will destroy large sections of the Beecroft Cheltenham heritage precinct. Your membership is our only source of funds.
- **Write submissions** before the **closing date of 2 Feb 07** expressing your opposition to the project and clearly stating your objections. Send your submission to:

The Director, Major Infrastructure Assessments, Department of Planning, GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001. plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

- Copy your letter or write separately to the following confirming your preparedness to fight this proposal that will destroy large sections of the Beecroft Cheltenham heritage precinct:

Minister for Planning, The Hon Frank Sartor MP, Ph 9228 4700, Fax 9228 4711, Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower,
1 Farrer Place,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au

Minister for Transport, The Hon John Watkins MP, Ph 9228 4866, Fax 92284855,
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower,
1 Farrer Place,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

dp.office@watkins.minister.nsw.gov.au

Please note that individual letters which require more effort to compile will have far more impact than form letters or petitions. Here are some possible impacts you might choose to include in your letter.

- Beecroft Cheltenham is a heritage precinct. Tunnelling will damage heritage houses through vibration and longer term subsidence.
- The proposed tunnel goes under Beecroft Public School and will disturb classes not only during construction but when the NWRL is operational.
- Large areas of public land will be needed as a construction depot for the tunnel portal. The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust and residents will not tolerate the use of The Village Green as a construction depot as suggested by TIDC at a meeting with BCCT committee on 28 Sept,06.
- Excessive noise will be experienced during construction and heavy vehicle movements will affect road safety and the safety of children walking to Beecroft Public School and Cheltenham Girls High School.
- As presented by TIDC, the North West Rail Link will completely change the character of Cheltenham and Beecroft.
- The additional lines between Epping and Beecroft and the associated rebuilding of Cheltenham Station will change it from a low impact station to one of high impact. It will remove or significantly reduce well used commuter parking. Cheltenham Station has no steps and is easily accessible and does not need to be rebuilt to allow disabled access.
- The additional lines will bring trains closer to residences disturbing the residential amenity and lower property values on both sides of the rail corridor and for some distance away.
- The widening of the cuttings and the rebuilding of the Cheltenham Road bridge will necessitate its closure causing inconvenience to residents and students at Cheltenham Girls High School.
- An alternative proposal which take the tunnel from Epping should be fully evaluated by TIDC. These would considerably lessen the adverse impacts on Beecroft and Cheltenham. TIDC confirmed at the meeting held by BCCT on 20 Nov 06 that the option of taking the tunnel from Epping was not only possible but also would have grade separation advantages.
- Other points that you consider important.

BCCT is not opposed to the remainder of the NWRL only that part which adversely impacts on Beecroft and Cheltenham and the opportunistic piggybacking of the additional rail lines between Epping and Beecroft.

Prepared by Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust Inc., PO Box 31, Beecroft 2119. www.2119.org.au November 2006