

6 April 2008

Dear Supporters,

It is important to keep up the momentum against the Government and the two local members in our campaign to stop the construction of the duplicate Iron Cove Bridge.

The Premier announced the \$12b Metro project on 19th March. At the press conference announcing the project, he twice confirmed that the Victoria Road Project would go ahead. It makes no sense. If the Government is to be believed, there will be a Metro train system running under Victoria Road by 2017. Why do we need to duplicate the Iron Cove Bridge and encourage more cars?

The Metro proposal now seems to be becoming unstuck. Kevin Eadie from Action for Public Transport revealed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the times did not add up, meaning that there was no time to pick up passengers. On Saturday the SMH again reported serious flaws in the Metro proposal. This Government only believes in spin, it has no answers and no plans to remedy the transport problems in Victoria Road or in the Sydney metropolitan area. The community must force it to recognise its responsibilities.

The Minister for Roads and the two local members, Verity Firth and Angela D'Amore are adamant that the bridge will be built, no matter what their constituents think.

The Committee has decided on the following plan of action;

- A flyer would be designed and circulated in the local area to keep all residents informed of the Government's plans and our opposition to them
- A dinner will be held in May to raise funds for the campaign. There will be a charity auction, good food, dancing and a chance to meet other members of the local community.
- Our technical committee which did a wonderful job preparing the report *Wrong Way Go Back* is continuing its work. It has now discovered some further technical problems with the RTA's proposal - the road lanes at Darling Street, Rozelle do not meet up. The Minister stated in Parliament that there will be a continuous 3.5k bus lane. This is not possible unless inbound car traffic is reduced to 2 lanes; this is inconsistent with another undertaking by the Minister. These questions were raised by Lee Rhiannon, the Greens leader, in Parliament last week.
- Michelle Williams and Olive Addis continue to man the stall on the Bay Run every weekend gathering signatures for the petition.

- A public debate to discuss transport options will be arranged in the near future. The two local members have been invited. Yesterday, Verity Firth confirmed she would attend. This will be a major media event, if we can make it one, to discuss transport issues in our area. More details will follow.

In June 2007 the Legislative Council resolved that all documents relating to the proposed duplication of the Iron Cove Bridge should be produced to the House. After inspecting those documents we found one which indicated that the potential time savings would be 50 seconds in travel times. This story featured on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

There was one box of documents for which the Government claimed privilege. The Clerk of the Parliament referred the matter for arbitration to Sir Laurence Street. His report to Parliament upheld the claim of privilege for most of the documents. However, in his report he made, I believe, some telling criticisms of the approach that governments and public servants take in NSW to the release of documents.

The Government and the RTA refuse our requests to release the modelling for traffic flows along Victoria Road. They say that they will be released with the environmental assessment. That is too late. The public is entitled to know what benefits will be achieved in travel times for the outlay of \$150m of taxpayers money; before that money is committed.

I have attached a copy of Sir Laurence Street's report for your information.

Your support is vital in bringing about change and I would on behalf of the Committee thank you again for your continued support. If you have any friends who are concerned about the bridge construction please ask them to register with us so that we may include them on our mailing list.

Regards

Alex Elliott
Spokesman for the Victoria Road Community Committee Inc.

PS There was a very good article in the *Village Voice* highlighting Angela D'Amore's receipt of political donations from various companies. A very interesting list.