

2 November 2022

The Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC
Minister for Metropolitan Roads
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Western Distributor Network Improvements

I write to oppose the proposed changes to the Western Distributor Network and support the City of Sydney submission on this project.

Pymont is a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, connected and supportive neighbourhood. It has a strong village character that is the result of low car-use, with residents largely walking to local services, facilities and amenities, and using public transport for other needs.

The proposed changes to the Western Distributor would see fast moving traffic funnelled through the streets of Pymont, putting its character and the safety of residents and visitors at risk. Vehicles would be given priority over pedestrians with the loss of both pedestrian crossings at light sequences and zebra crossings. New arrangements would encourage rat-running of Harris Street and Pymont Bridge Road. The loss of 71 trees – almost 10 percent of trees across the assessed area – would add to the resultant hostile environment.

Pymont has come under state government focus with planning strategies aiming to build on the area's vibrancy and connectivity, while making use of the planned metro service. The proposed road network changes would undermine this work by compromising amenity and safety for pedestrians and putting traffic-flow ahead of people and place.

With a metro service soon to provide new fast and efficient public transport to the area and beyond, it is inappropriate to expand space for vehicle traffic. It is well known that providing new space for motor vehicles merely encourages car use with the space filling up and traffic congestion returning soon after. At a time when we urgently need to decarbonise every aspect of life, road planning should not be focussing on new ways to encourage fast moving motor vehicle traffic.

The City of Sydney's submission provides a detailed critique of the proposal and recommendations for further work to address traffic concerns. I ask that the department take note of the City's submission to the review of environmental factors as also reflecting my position.

Could you please reject the proposed Western Distributor Network changes, conduct further work to address traffic concerns in Pymont as recommended by the City of Sydney, and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

