

**DA 10661**

**Regional Assessments, Planning and Assessment, Department of planning, Industry and Environment.**

5 February 2021

Dear Director

The proposed development of two advertising signs located on the train bridge and above the major corridor of Woodville road is frankly dangerous and astonishing inappropriate for this area.

### **Background**

This Woodville road area is well known for its crashes, rear-end accidents are common occurrences. This part of the road has a downward decline which leads under the railway bridge in which requires extra critical attention and drivers to keep their eyes focused in front of them due to traffic build and/or traffic light changes.

### **Attempt to break safety law**

Justifiably we are enforced by law to drive safely and not use mobile phone while driving yet Sydney Trains (Government NSW) is proposing to diverting drivers attention to profit by advertising at the high risk of the public with families all using this arterial roadway.

### **Opposing digital supersize advertising proposal**

We are completely opposed to any electronic advertisement signs at northern and southern elevations of the railway overpass bridge elevated above Woodville Road and associated works for these reasons stated below:

### **Divert Attention causing accidents**

The drivers on Woodville road need to focus particularly on this stretch of road as it is a very narrow underpass and drivers need to take extra care not to jump the kerb and hit pedestrians and need to focus on staying within the lanes to cross it. This proposed digital sign would distract the drivers focus on staying within their lanes. This lack of focus will contribute for further accidents. We already have more than our fair share of accidents in this area we, do not want to exacerbate the problem. Drivers do not need another excuse for not concentrating on the fast paced major road.

### **Truck Bridge Clearance**

The train bridge in question has been sinking ever since the Y-link train bridge was erected next to the original overpass. So much so the the height level clearance sign has been lowered from 4.8 metres to 4.4metres. ( see photo 1.1 evidence) Numerous times truck

with loads have struck this bridge which is clearly evident by the damage to wall and sign in photo 1.1. It should be most obvious how many more accidents of fast moving vehicles are likely to be further distracted by this unnecessary advertising screens.



Photo 1.1 showing clearance sign and damage to sign by collisions. Taken by residents.

### **Existing Road ignored problems**

Woodville road transport for NSW (Roads and Maritime). The road maintenance of this section of Woodville road is extremely poor. I personally have made complaints about the poor condition, road subsidence to Venetia Boral Amey Joint Venture who are directly responsible for the maintenance of their section of road. I have regularly complained about the pot holes in front of my home, the vibrations and extra loud noise from the trucks go over this uneven and pot holed road over the past year. ( see evidence photo 2.1 below) Venetia Boral Amey Joint Venture engagement officers response always was long delays were normal and they would escalate my complaint. A year on when they finally inspected the site, they said it was caused by a council sidewalk and since the crack was their in 2014 it does not require urgent attention and was not severe enough to warrant repair. (See evidence of cracks photo 2.2) There have been multiple rear end accidents and sudden braking on a poorly maintained steep angular road does not have good outcomes. Venetia Boral remarks are irresponsible and careless. Instead of improving the safety of this difficult stretch of road they are sitting on their hands and are careless. I cannot believe that this advertising digital sign should even be considered under such conditions. When “no stopping” signs are placed on sidewalks they are knocked down within a few days. I wonder how severe the cracks must be before Venetia Boral Amey Joint Venture will repair this damaged road.





Photo 2.1 showing crack and potholes. Taken by residents.





Photo 2.2 showing cracks, Taken by residents.

We used to have good road maintenance with previous road contractors over the years but with Ventia Boral Amey Joint Venture have been very unhelpful and unreliable to keep the road maintained. They use their engagement officers to delay attention to matters and their inspectors blame council guttering and sit on their hands and tell residents the damage is not severe enough as to avoid repairs. It is also upsetting to see them repairing the Mr Stokes new development 80 metres away and leaving the witches hats opposite my



home on top of the pot holes for more than a year on and nothing gets done to repair the cracks opposite my home.

Currently Woodville road is in poor condition, money spent on the super digital screens are better spent on repairing cracks and sinking subsiding roadway for the safety of the public.

### **Amenities**

The residents have already lost so many amenities with road noise, pollution, constant vibrations, pot holes, huge cracks on roads with existing conditions.

### **Road Safety Concerns**

The proposed advertising digital billboards will surely prove to be a dangerous distraction to drivers. The focus for this section of road should only be getting through the underpass safely and that should be paramount to this road. This new proposal for an digital advertising sign is unhelpful, money grabbing exercise that will further consume this community with concern and aghast.

### **Heritage**

The government paid a heritage officer to make these houses and other surrounding houses and landmarks heritage. Now the government, for the sake of adverting revenue, are happy to comprise the significance of the heritage items at any time they like to their discretion.

### **Views vistas**

1. As residents our views and vistas of parramatta road junction will be blocked and compromised by an annoying digital super screen changing every 15 seconds.
2. The digital lights will produce annoying visual light and noise effecting our amenities in our windows and on our verandah.

### **Sound**

No consideration whatsoever in the filed reports included the noise impacts.

The digital advertising super sign forms are vast in scale and would create a reflective sound amplifier that will add further reflective vehicle noise and road noise to the residents and surrounding area.

### **Pollution/airflow**

The advertising sign will form an air barrier that will reduce fresh air flow to the residents and surrounding area causing further air pollution to stagnate. The existing underpass road is in the form of a bowl shape which is below ground level where air settles. The only relief of stagnate air is provided by ground level fresh air flow to be unobstructed.

It is evident that in this subsurface road bowl shape creates a densely accumulative highly toxic air pollutant which is hazardous to the local residents. This can be easily noticed by a strong pollutant smell in this area. The digital super screen will exacerbate this problem by partially blocking the existing airflow.

### **Divert drivers eye/focus**

The fact the proposed digital super sign is on the other side of the road to north bound traffic encourages drivers to look away from the road ahead, diverting there attention away from where there vehicle should be going at a critical time of driving. This is simply dangerous and will increase the amount of already regular collisions taking place here.



## **Light**

The lights will be annoying to the residence and distract drivers on a dangerous stretch of road known for its accidents.

## **Colour Night light - fog**

This road is lit by yellow night fog lights to assist drivers to visually see better on a foggy or smoggy night. This area is prone for such conditions. The proposed street signs will have adverse effect on drivers visibility increasing safety risk. The screen will render the yellow fog lights ineffective and reduce visibility at critical weather conditions.

## **Glare**

No study conducted on the suns potential glare reflective adverse effects on drivers from the proposed screens.

## **Light Spillage**

The super digital screen changing colours/images every 15 seconds will cast a colour lighting in the area which will affect the look and feel of the area. The area will become a visual noise eyesore.

## **Electromagnetic Radiation**

There is no indication mentioned if the proposed communications to the digital display screens will use 5G or any other high powered electromagnetic radiation with potential harmful effects to human or local species health.

## **Structure unclear**

It is evidently unclear exactly what kind of structure the digital screens will be as the engineers state after they have done there soil site tests then the extent of the structure will be evident. This could mean the size be a larger and more significant structure than proposed with the possibility of having a large communications tower that is currently not been submitted.

## **Errors / misleading information**

Documents are misleading with errors.

The "STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT" document by NGH is evidently a total error, false and misleading, evidently the report evaluates a proposed sign that is indicated in the wrong location (Figure 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 5-2) comparing all the other documentations, or is it? With these multiple errors in numerous documents we still do not know what is actually being proposed for this area and cannot be accurately evaluated.

Document *RE: Rail Signage Site 20 Woodville Rd, Granville (southern side) – Bridge Mounted Structural Feasibility Statement*, report states the proposed "The existing structure is a rail bridge suspended over a roadway constructed in circa 2008." This is false and misleading information, they are analysing the wrong bridge, they don't even know even know which bridge is proposed. How can anyone take this seriously?

Document, *Statement of Environmental Effects* by Ethos Urban states, "There are no existing signs or advertising display boards on the railway bridge." This is false and misleading, both sides if the bridge have signs indication the bridge height clearance.

Document SYDNEY TRAINS BILLBOARDS Site 17: Granville, Woodville Road EVALUATION OF LIGHTING IMPACT by Lighting, Art + Science indicates in their



diagrams, that Ryde road runs south-west bound this proves that this company does not even know the area as Ryde road is nowhere near Woodville road. Again this proves that this firm does not even know the area and do not do there due diligence as there priorities is to get the super screen passed.

These documents should be thrown out. A different company should be utilised who upholds professional ethics with precise due diligence so they do not waste publics time and effort in finding numerous obvious and significant errors which makes it highly unlikely to know what the actual proposal is. This highly erroneous and inconsistent proposal is unfair to the public to expect to make an proper evaluation.

This proposal has already cost us a great deal of time and money and stress to only find it riddled with errors with so called professionals, how are we compensated by this so-called proposal. If the project goes ahead, then the residence who are directly affected should be compensated. The errors we noted in the documents are not fully comprehensive, as other errors may exist too. We have no doubt if we had more time looking at the substandard documents many more errors would be found.

### **Feedback**

We would like to know who were the bodies responsible for overlooking if any errors exist in these submitted proposals, reports and documents as we are astonished at the poor quality of the proposal considering the many major errors we found.

### **Safety**

In the documentation I do not find any photo evidence on the Right-turning vehicles from Halsall Street onto Woodville road. This area is prone to accidents in the past and the digital super screen will exacerbate this problem area. See picture below.



Hallsal Street Photo for vehicles turning right onto Woodville road. Taken by residents.



**Obstruction right-turn**

Right-turning vehicles from Hallsal street onto Woodville road to head north bound will be blinded and distracted from the super size digital screen and road reflections cause by the screen during wet conditions. This particular right turn has had a notorious history of numerous accidents.

**Sign display sound**

No mention whether the sign will utilise audio to advertise.

**Super Sign Blocks Road traffic ahead**

There are three major blind spots:

- 1) road curvature, drivers have to negotiate a bend at 60km/hr prior to reaching the underpass southbound on Woodville road. In the meantime, the drivers have to be cautions of traffic ahead, traffic merging in from left lane and right most lane tends to be blocked by vehicles turning right into Crescent Street which causes a lot of right lane vehicles trying to avoid the blockage and abruptly changing into the middle lane. Also traffic lights are part of the obstacles that drivers have to be aware all this happening in a short span of time and distance. As described this is a very chaotic and hazardous stretch of road. A super size digital screen will capture the drivers attention at the most critical time.
- 2) The existing underpass bridge causes a partial blind spot for the road conditions ahead. Whist vehicles pass under the bridge, there is no safety shoulder areas available and no room for errors or breakdowns.
- 3) The super size digital sign proposal will fully block view of traffic ahead for vehicles approaching the bridge. The introduction of the sign will no longer have visual critical existing queues to allow road users to know what traffic conditions lie up ahead of the bridge. This will fully remove a significant safety aspect when travelling on the road.

**Safety fire procedures**

No fire safety protocols were found in the submitted proposal documentation in the case an electrical fault causes a fire on the super size digital signs which is in close proximity to train commuters and vehicles travelling below.

**Security**

The southern super size digital screen, right-most side structure of the screen sits on a green space. The green space area is fenced off to public by a waist high fence. Vandals have struck the overpass bridge several times that is evident by the existing graffiti and vandalism. It would take no effort for vandals to get easy access to the super screen, use it as a hiding place, cause crime, vandalism, graffiti or endanger road users below. Where are the safety measures to secure this site? None of the proposed documentations to date have any security safety procedures documented.

Sincerely

Residence or 15 Woodville Road Granville