



Newsletter - 31st December 2017

The Waverton to Lavender Bay rail road once comprised two parallel tracks – some years ago one of the tracks was removed. The Highline is, simply put, a plan for paving the area where the track has been removed and then make it safe to be used as a walking trail.

The last Newsletter dated 31st October 2017 is available to supporters on our [website](#). We suggest supporters read that report before reading this Newsletter.

The second meeting of the State Government Committee was held on 24th November 2017 at 2 pm. Some of the information we had requested over previous months arrived on the morning of 24th November and was discussed at the meeting that afternoon.

We tabled the third concept illustration completed being the John Street overbridge with our proposed walkway. This concept illustration is on our [website](#).

For the Association to move forward with planning of the Sydney Harbour High Line Sydney Trains needs to provide information previously requested by us being:

1. As built drawings of the rail corridor with stanchions shown.
2. Title plans of Railcorp land.
3. Copies of the aerial photos that Sydney Trains used in the report shown to the Committee.
4. Tunnel dimensions and location of the rail track.

With this information we can start work on cost estimates for:

5. Fencing.
6. Paving and landscaping of the walkway.
7. Lighting, ventilation and operational solutions for the tunnel.

We are disappointed with the delay in providing this information as we expected it would be readily accessible to Sydney Trains.

On 22nd December 2017 a short meeting was held with Howard Collins – Chief Executive of Sydney Trains and Rino Matarazzo. We requested the meeting to seek clarification on the joint use of the tunnel.

Mr Collins advised that he preferred his team to first focus on the matters relating to the joint use of the line between Union Street and the Tunnel before moving onto the Tunnel issues. This piecemeal approach to building the SHHL surprised us.

At this meeting Mr Matazzo provided a copy of the preliminary booklet prepared by Sydney Trains on 15th August 2017 and first shown to the Association on 27th October 2017. This booklet was tabled at the Committee meeting on 24th November 2017 but was not distributed to any of the attendees.

The timing of the material provided by Sydney Trains suggests that the Highline project has a low priority and that's both surprising and disappointing given:

- the support expressed by the Premier in the lead-up to the by-election (needed when Mrs Skinner resigned) and
- the more recent advice given by the Department of Transport that work could commence,

We need to be cognisant of our local member's comments as reported in previous newsletters that the Premier offered to form a committee to consider the design of the SHHL but did not agree that they would pay for it.

We have a growing concern that there may be other plans in play by Government Departments and Sydney Trains for this land.

As we previously stated in early newsletters 'there is therefore a need to have a strong membership base not only for funding purposes but when dealing with both State and Federal Governments. With the next State election within the next 18 months the importance of increasing local Association members is obvious. Any assistance you may provide in building up the membership base is most welcome'.

Information on membership is available on the SHHL website at <https://www.sydneyharbourhighline.org.au/>

Regards



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