

The Hon. Andrew Constance, MP  
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure  
52 Martin Place SYDNEY NSW 2000

By courier

4 February 2019

Dear Minister,

### **Sydney Harbour HighLine**

In March 2017, the Premier announced in principle support for the creation of a scenic walking trail along the Lavender Bay rail line (the Sydney Harbour HighLine), undertook to keep the land in public ownership and announced the formation of the HighLine Committee.

The HighLine Committee was established and led to a close working relationship between Sydney Trains and the Sydney Harbour HighLine (SHHL) Association.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018, you wrote to Ms Felicity Wilson, member North Shore, encouraging the HighLine Committee to finalise its work and report to the NSW Government. The SHHL Association, on behalf of the Committee, submitted the report to you on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The report represents 18 months' work by Sydney Trains, the SHHL Association and the Committee. The next step is for the NSW Government to fund the building of the walkway from the present northern boundary of Luna Park to Union Street (near Waverton Station) along the existing rail corridor. The report details the funding requirements.

The Mosman Daily arranged a photoshoot with SHHL representatives and you on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019. We understood you would use the photoshoot to announce the funding. Regrettably the photoshoot was postponed and to date has not been rescheduled.

Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden (Wendy's Garden) is contiguous with the SHHL and a local, State, National and International location. The HighLine walk is "bookended" with Luna Park, Wendy's Garden, Quibaree, Clark and Watt Parks at the eastern end and Balls Head and the Coal Loader at the western end. The HighLine project links these harbour parklands by way of a linear garden/ walkway.

The agreements put in place by Ms Whiteley, Rail Corporation of NSW (Sydney Trains) and North Sydney Council to safeguard the future of Wendy's Garden provide the mechanism through which the funding can now be made available to build the walkway.

Wendy's Garden is presently on land leased to North Sydney Council by Sydney Trains (Rail Corporation New South Wales). The term of the lease is 30 years with a 30-year option.

In December 2017, a Charitable Trust was set up by Wendy Whiteley and North Sydney Council for " the purpose of beautification and gradual enhancement of Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden".

The Trust:

- has the power to lease and purchase property.
- can lease or purchase land presently owned by Sydney Trains that:
  - is contiguous with Wendy's Garden;
  - extends from the present northern boundary of Luna Park to near Waverton railway station;
  - is proposed to be landscaped as an extension of Wendy's Garden (incorporating a walking trail).
- can undertake the construction of the walkway and garden.
- can receive and apply funds for the construction of the walkway and garden.

The SHHL Association should now be appointed trustee of the Trust along with North Sydney Council, whose representatives are the current trustees.

This provides the mechanism to lease the rail land for the SHHL and to fund the construction of the walkway and garden. With small amendments to the current Lease and Trust, the required funding from the State Government could be allocated to the Trust and the work undertaken in the manner addressed in our report submitted to you on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

This project has enormous appeal to the NSW electorate. As it is now almost two years since the Premier's announcement in March 2017 on "*creating a scenic walking track along this unique stretch of railway land*", there is growing concern amongst the electorate that the Premier's announcement may be an empty election promise.

We request a meeting with you at the soonest possible date.

Yours sincerely

David Bowman  
**Vice President, Sydney Harbour HighLine Association**

Cc: Ms Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of NSW