



## **Newsletter: 29th August 2019**

Please refer to our last Newsletters of 24<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. In those letters we referred to the proposed photo shoot with Minister Constance on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 which was cancelled the day before. We now understand that the Minister intended to announce funding of the HighLine project at that photo shoot. We have not been given a reason for the cancellation.

Since then we have written again to the Premier and Minister Constance and their respective chiefs of staff requesting a reply to our report of December 2018 and the opportunity to meet with each of them. Our requests remain unanswered.

We met again with our local State Member, Felicity Wilson on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and our local Federal Member, Trent Zimmerman on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 requesting each to assist with our efforts in arranging the above meetings.

The week before our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July with Ms Wilson, Ms Wilson received a letter from Minister Constance's office which does not address the report of the HighLine Committee and incorrectly suggests that the walking trail may interfere with the operations of Sydney Trains.

The HighLine Committee was formed in mid-2017 by the Premier after Sydney Trains had agreed to the dual use of the rail corridor with its operations and the HighLine.

To be blunt, such a Committee would not have been formed nor Sydney Trains represented on it if it had objected to the dual use.

Below is the series of letters and emails since 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and indicates not only our lack of progress but our level of frustration.

- i) 28<sup>TH</sup> March 2019:  
[Memo to Howard Collins \(Sydney Trains\) from the Sydney Harbour HighLine \(SHHL\) Assoc.](#)
- ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:  
[Letters to Premier / Tim Reardon \( Premiers Office\) / Minister Constance / Stuart Wallace \( Minister Constance Office \) from the SHHL Assoc.](#)
- iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019:  
[Email from Felicity Wilson to Rino Matarazzo \( Sydney Trains\)](#)
- iv) 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019:  
[Memo to Rino Matarazzo from the SHHL Assoc.](#)
- v) 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019:  
[Memo to Felicity Wilson from the SHHL Assoc.](#)
- vi) 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019:  
[Letter from Minister Constance's office to Felicity Wilson.](#)
- vii) 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019:  
[Letter to Felicity Wilson from the SHHL Assoc.](#)
- viii) 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019:  
[Letter from Ian Mutton to Howard Collins , CE Sydney Trains](#)
- ix) 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019:  
[Letter from Felicity Wilson to the SHHL Assoc.](#)


It appears from our dealings with Government that the delay to the progress of this project is with Sydney Trains. Having promised since October 2018 that it would arrange for the SHHL's Quantity Surveyor (QS) to meet with the Sydney Trains' QS, or at the least, to release the detailed costings prepared by their QS, Sydney Trains has on a number of occasions simply ignored the requests from our local State Member in her efforts to arrange for meetings and obtain the required information from their QS. This information is required so that a funding proposal can be prepared for submission to the NSW State Government.

Our focus is now threefold:

- i) Secure a meeting between the SHHL's QS and Sydney Trains' QS or obtain a copy of Sydney Trains' QS Report so that the funding proposal can be prepared.
- ii) Secure a meeting with the Premier to receive guidance on the best way to progress the SHHL. The Premier advised one of our members at a social function in May that her Government supported the SHHL.
- iii) Secure a meeting with Howard Collins and seek (a) his reconfirmation of his support for the project (b) his agreement to recommend to his Minister's acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee and (c) assist SHHL with the finalisation of costings and (d) removal of some of the operational restrictions affecting the design of the walking trail.

To date it has been a long and frustrating process in our dealings with Government and the bureaucrats. There is no doubt that this matter is on a political pathway that we have little control over between elections. To succeed we need the continued support of our existing members and the ongoing growth of the membership base.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Mutton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ian Mutton  
President  
Sydney Harbour High Line Association