



The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads

Our Ref: 00753417

Ms Felicity Wilson MP
Member for North Shore
Suite 3, 40 Yeo Street
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089

Dear Ms Wilson

Thank you for your ongoing representations in relation to the Sydney Harbour High Line Project, and the Sydney Harbour High Line Association's proposal to deliver the same.

I note your ongoing advocacy in relation to this project and commend the work undertaken by yourself and the other members of the committee established by the NSW Government in 2017 to investigate creating a scenic walking track in Lavender Bay. I also acknowledge the time and effort which the committee has taken to prepare its vision for potential transformations of the active rail line at Lavender Bay. I am advised that the NSW Government has been well represented on the committee by both yourself and the Chief Executive of Sydney Trains, Howard Collins QBE.

As you know, the NSW Government's position in relation to the Sydney Harbour High Line project has always been that, subject to the appropriate due diligence being completed and provided that it does not interfere with current or future passenger service delivery requirements of the rail network, it was happy to consider investigating how the Sydney Harbour High Line project might be facilitated. I am advised that significant portions of the proposed route continue to be required to operate the rail network. I am further advised that no funding is available at this time to deliver the project. Whilst I appreciate the Sydney Harbour High Line Association's passion for the project, the NSW Government must prioritise the operational needs of the Sydney Trains rail network in the first instance. This ensures that we can continue to keep Sydney moving.

You may be assured that the NSW Government will look to consider the Sydney Harbour High Line Association's recommendations regarding the delivery of the project as part of the delivery of the future stages of the More Trains, More Services program. The \$4.3 billion program boosts network capability, provides better infrastructure and represents the single largest increase in capacity on the network.

I separately note that both the Premier and I have received representations from both yourself and the Sydney Harbour High Line Association in relation to the ongoing management of Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden. Following receipt of your representations, I asked Transport for NSW to further investigate the management of the gardens. I am advised that the investigation concluded that the management of the garden will remain with North Sydney Council at this time. I am further advised that on 13 March 2017 the Premier announced the creation of a charitable trust to ensure the ongoing care and preservation of the site. I am

also advised that North Sydney Council was appointed as trustee to receive donations and apply trust proceeds.

As you are aware, in October 2015 the NSW Government announced it would extend North Sydney Council's five-year lease on the land referred to in the Sydney Harbour High Line Association's correspondence of 4 February 2019 to 30 years, with an additional 30 year roll-over clause, to allow for the long-term preservation of the garden. I am advised that on 20 May 2016, Transport for NSW approved this extension.

I wish to reinforce the guarantee made by the Premier that the NSW Government will never sell the rail corridor at Lavender Bay and will ensure that it remains a community asset in the event it is not needed for rail use.

Please extend my sincerest thanks to the committee members for their work.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Constance', written in a cursive style.

THE HON ANDREW CONSTANCE MP

17/06/2019