

Mr Trent Zimmerman MP
Member for North Sydney
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9th March 2022

Dear Trent

Sydney Harbour HighLine

Thank you for your continuing support for the Sydney Harbour HighLine (SHHL) project.

Despite the disruptions over the last two years the SHHL continued to undertake several positive steps to take the project forward. As mentioned we met with Howard Collins on 1 December 2021 and he reaffirmed his full support for the project. Howard agreed to introduce us to Matt Longland, the newly appointed Chief Executive, Sydney Trains. We provided a full overview of the project to assist. With the recent challenges in Transport, we do not know if Howard has yet spoken to Matt about the SHHL. And so we were delighted to learn that you know Matt and would speak to him. I attach a brief chronology of the project to date which might assist you in your discussion with Matt.

As you know prior to appointment of the SHHL Committee in 2017, the State Government and Sydney Trains agreed that the SHHL may be designed, constructed and operated in conjunction with the ongoing operations of Sydney Trains and its use of this spur line for daily train storage. Three trains are stored each weekday, however, we understand that this will not continue post opening of the Metro (it takes 11 minutes to shunt a train off the main line onto the spur line).

Re-engagement with Sydney Trains is essential to progress the SHHL as the following major issues need to be resolved:

1. Will Sydney Trains cease operational use of the corridor, as previously envisaged, in late 2023?
2. If Sydney Trains require use of the corridor after that date are they aware of when their use will cease?.
3. Will Sydney Trains agree that the SHHL may be designed, constructed and operated in conjunction with the ongoing operations of Sydney Trains and its use of this spur line for daily train storage, as previously advised in 2017.

As Sydney recovers from the economic effects of the Covid lockdowns one of the more important triggers for that recovery will be tourism. Sydney has long-standing and successful tourism attractions like the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and Bridge Climb, Taronga Zoo, Sydney Aquarium and Wildlife Sydney, harbour cruises and the Sydney Tower. However, to remain competitive, Sydney needs to invest in new attractions to target new markets and to offer a new experience to returning visitors. The HighLine is such an attraction. Taking Destination NSW travel statistics (visitor numbers, nights stayed and expenditure) as a base, if 30% of (pre-covid) visitors were to stay an extra night because they wanted to visit the SHHL, this would generate \$2.5 billion for the national economy each year!

Trent, thank you again for agreeing to speak to Matt Longland about the SHHL. We are most in establishing a dialogue with him and progressing the project. If you need anything else to assist your discussion, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Joan Street
Secretary
Sydney Harbour HighLine Association