



Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

The General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

26 April 2018

Re: Re-Imagining Campbelltown CBD – Draft Vision

Dear Lindy,

I write in reference to **Re-Imagining Campbelltown CBD – Draft Vision**.

In May, the City of Campbelltown will celebrate its 50th anniversary of the proclamation of our City and the arrival of the first electrified train to Campbelltown. This momentous occasion provides a wonderful opportunity for our community to reflect on our past and look forward to the future.

This anniversary comes at a pivotal time for Campbelltown – a time when mounting urban growth pressures are placing enormous strain on our City's existing infrastructure and threatening to destroy our vital green open spaces.

Council's plan could only work if the State and Federal Liberal Governments stopped ignoring the needs of our community and gave us our fair share of resources to meet our current and future needs as our city continues to grow.

To quote the philosopher and poet, George Santayana, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it". I fear that unless the State and Federal Liberal Governments are willing to fund investment in critical infrastructure in our local community now – to match future growth projections – that our community will bear the scars of such short-sighted planning decisions forever.

The scars of poor and inappropriate planning will permanently and irreversibly change our suburban character, with high rise monstrosities dotting our skyline. Similarly, the incremental creep of more concrete and tar across our city threatens to destroy our environmental heritage and vital green open spaces.

Our community is all too familiar with the State Liberal Government's abysmal track record in South West Sydney. We were short-changed in the City Deal when we missed out on a rail link connecting the Western Sydney Airport to Macarthur and Leppington.

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Sustained urban growth with no equivalent infrastructure spend will only result in more stifling congestion; more overcrowding of our trains, schools and hospitals; and more housing developments that squeeze people in while squeezing out the suburban backyard and green open space.

I don't need to 're-imagine' Campbelltown's future. I can see where our city is headed every time I travel on overcrowded trains, every time I try unsuccessfully to get a commuter car park at 7am, every time I encounter gridlock on our roads, or every time I see development application signs marking out a proposed future cemetery on our iconic Scenic Hills.

Around 2000 constituents have completed my Stop the Squeeze survey and the results paint a very telling picture. Local residents have vehemently told me through my survey that they oppose overdevelopment. They want to maintain their suburbs' character and they want to enjoy green open space – now and into the future.

The overwhelming message from my local residents is this – development is out of control in our suburbs and people have had enough. They want to see firm action on infrastructure before people move into our suburbs. The planning mistakes of the past must not be repeated.

If Campbelltown is to become Australia's 'greenest city' as Council's ambitious plan states, then a good starting point would be to save our much-loved Scenic Hills from development and work together to stop the State Government's appalling decision to sell off the Hurlstone Farm.

Anything less would contradict Council's bold vision for our City.

Rhetoric is no match for action and consistency.

In another 50 years, Campbelltown will celebrate its centenary of being proclaimed a city. When this time comes, and we once again reflect on our City's journey, I trust that decision makers will be satisfied that they have listened to our community, learnt from past mistakes and helped shaped a City that future generations would be proud to call home.

I look forward to Council standing up for its community as it has done in the past. I also reiterate the urgent need for the State and Federal Liberal Governments to give us our fair share of resources and fund critical infrastructure as our City continues to grow – now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anoulack Chanthivong'.

Anoulack Chanthivong, MP
Member for Macquarie Fields