

# Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

NO. 16, JUNE 1992

## Huge support for rail solution!

The Proposal P campaign has just begun and already it's clear that residents see the Southern Suburbs Railway as a viable alternative to the RTA's discredited freeway plans!

And support is coming in from all over Sydney.

We've never had such a terrific response! At the time of going to press over 5,000 letters to the Premier had been received by our campaign centre and hundreds more were pouring in each day. It's a huge slap in the face for the Roads and Traffic Authority and a great boost for rational public transport solutions.

And the government has now extended the deadline for submissions to the Botany-West Transport Study to June 19.

If you forgot to post in your letter, do it now. If you haven't yet got the rest of your family to sign up, you've now got time to do it. There's a form letter on the back of this leaflet. If you don't have access to a photocopier and you need more forms, give us a ring (559 1269).

### NOT ALONE

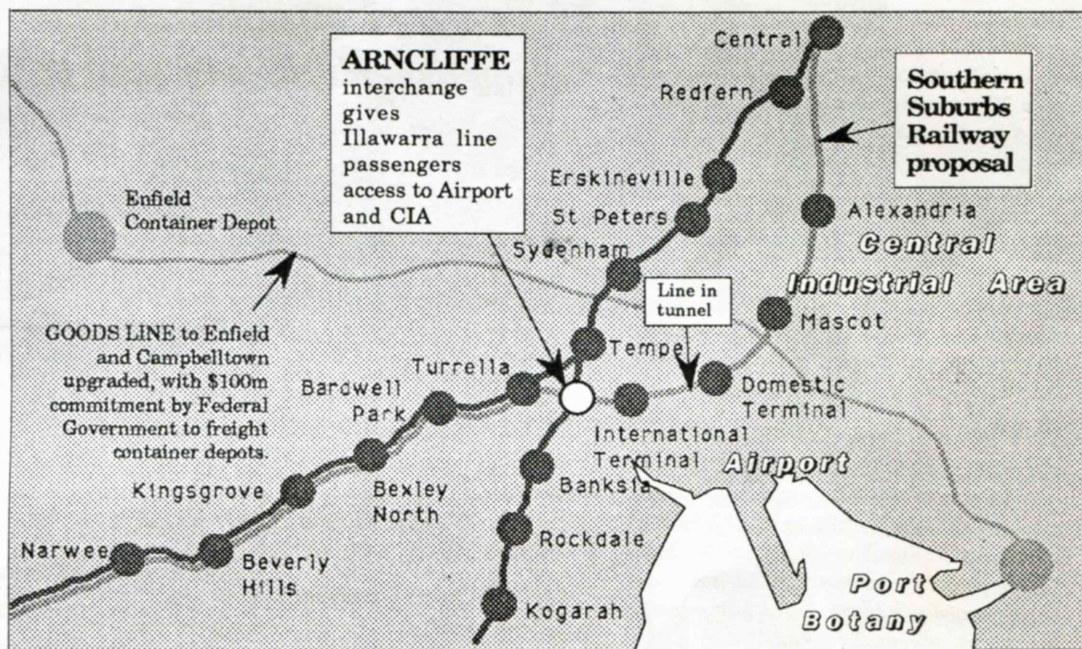
And we're not alone in this fight. A powerful campaign supporting the Proposal P rail solution is being run by a coalition of commuter, resident and workplace groups called Proposal P Solution.

These are some of the highlights of the campaign:

- **East Hills/Campbelltown line rail commuters** have been informed of the rail solution by a special leaflet distributed at railway stations. The most common remark: "Great idea. We're sick of being driven to the poorhouse by the cost of running two or three cars just to get the family to work!"

- **Airport workers** in particular are supporting Proposal P and this support is coming in from the southern suburbs near the Illawarra line and the North Shore.

- **Rockdale residents** are clearly delighted that Proposal P



removes the RTA's argument for the F6 freeway. This is the road proposal that would destroy the amenity of most of the parkland in the eastern half of Rockdale and divide the municipality with a 6-lane river of concrete. It's early days yet with the F6 fight but already letters are pouring in.

- **Over 500 Beverly Hills-Kingsgrove area residents** have responded, condemning the continuation of the F5, supporting Proposal P and slamming the RTA's handling of the Botany-West study. Clearly lots of residents have seen through the pro-freeway lie campaign which suggests that local traffic will drop if the freeway goes through to Tempe. Of course, the opposite will happen.

### TURNING POINT

The campaign for Proposal P has undoubtedly been boosted by a growing public realisation that Sydney is at a turning point in its development. If the F5 freeway is

stopped and a rational public transport solution implemented, we can avoid a rapid slide towards a Los Angeles-style nightmare of runaway air pollution, massive urban sprawl and social decay.

### FREIGHT LINE

Another important boost has come from the Federal Government funded upgrade of the Enfield and Campbelltown container freight depots and the building of a dedicated container freight line between the two major depots. This project marks the beginning of the end for the container trucks which now unnecessarily use too many of Sydney's roads.

The opening of the F4 tollway and the Mays Hill link has been a public relations disaster for Roads minister Wal Murray and the Greiner Government. Writing in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, civic roundsperson Danielle Cook wrote that "...transport planners, academics and community groups

warn that Mr Murray's "revolution" spells nothing short of disaster for Sydney", and went on to point out that the RTA's *Road Transport—Future Directions* report, which condemns the present freeway/tollway strategy, has still not been considered by cabinet.

The Greiner government (or, if it fails to survive the Metherell affair, an incoming Labor government) must be made aware that there's strong and growing support for a turn away from the RTA's present disastrous course. We're living in a time when governments can be brought to their senses and made to reverse the anti-public transport policies of the post-war years.

It's now an urgent responsibility for residents who want to stop air pollution, the destruction of our open space, urban sprawl and social decay to take a stand. Let's tell them: The F5 goes no further. It's time to put Sydney back on the rails!

### DEADLINE EXTENDED

You now have until **Wednesday June 17** to get your form letter in to the Proposal P Campaign. **ACT NOW.**



# PROPOSAL P

## What's it all about?

The RTA undertook the Botany-West Transport Study\* after the F5 freeway project was overwhelmingly rejected by the public in 1990.

Two alternative proposals have been put forward by the study.

**1. A public transport proposal, (Proposal P).** The centrepiece of the scheme is the Southern Suburbs Railway, but road bypasses at heavily trafficked shopping centres are included. The railway would branch off the East Hills line near Turrella station and travel to Redfern in a tunnel. There would be stations at the Airport's international and domestic terminals, Mascot, and at least one location in the Central Industrial Area. An important feature—which the RTA's study fails to mention—is an underground interchange at Arncliffe station which would allow southern suburbs commuters served by the Illawarra and Cronulla lines to change for stations on the new rail link. The Arncliffe interchange is a severe blow to the RTA's plans for another freeway, the F6, through Rockdale.

**2. A freeway or tollway nearly identical to the proposal rejected in 1990 (Proposal R).** The road would be an elevated 6-lane structure carrying an estimated 60,000 vehicles a day through Wolli Creek Valley. Shopping centre bypasses at Bexley and Rockdale would be much less likely under this scheme. Some minor public transport improvements are mooted.

Community groups have condemned the final report of the Botany-West Study. It has been written with a heavy bias against the public transport proposal which the RTA does not, of course, support.

\*The Botany-West Study report is available from the RTA.

### Wolli Creek Preservation Society

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE TICK

Family \$10.00

Individual \$7.00

Concession \$5.00

Donation \$.....

I enclose a cheque/money order for...

Post to: WCPS Membership, PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206

## A QUESTION OF CASH

# What's the Valley worth to you?



Campaigns like this don't come cheap! Through the Proposal P campaign the Wolli Creek Preservation Society is battling to save our vital open space for future generations. Our lives are enriched by the closeness of our wonderful bush valley which is the last such place in inner southern Sydney.

Ask yourself how much this unique resource means to your family. It's worth comparing it to some of the things you ordinarily spend money on.

- Is it worth as much as you'd spend on a night out to dinner?
- Is it worth as much as you'd spend filling your tank with petrol?
- Is it worth as much as a new CD? A pair of

shoes? A case of beer? A theatre ticket?

In one way these are ridiculous questions. Nobody can put a cash value on a tranquil, wild, green place where kids can explore and adults can find a few hours peace from the stress of big-city life. But it's worth asking these questions because saving a place like this from the pointless environmental vandalism of the RTA does cost money.

With the advent of the rail option we've taken a big step forward. Please send a donation so we can carry the fight to save Wolli Valley through to a successful conclusion!

☛ Make cheques payable to: Wolli Creek Preservation Society.

☛ Post to: PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206.

## SUPPORT PROPOSAL P

### If you haven't already sent in this letter, DO IT NOW

• All letters will be compiled and presented to the State Government

**1. Cut out the letter or photocopy it.** More than one adult per household can send a letter. Extra copies can be obtained by phoning 559 1269.

**2. Sign it and date it.** It is most important that you include your name and address—this is your guarantee that your support for

Proposal P is known by the government to be the real opinion of a real person.

**3. Post the letter to:** Proposal P Campaign, PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206

**4. Your letter must reach us by Wednesday, 17 June 1992.**

### RE: BOTANY-WEST TRANSPORT STUDY

Dear Premier,

• I fully support Proposal P, the public transport solution put forward by the Botany-West Transport Study.

• I am opposed to Proposal R, the freeway option.

• I call on the government to honour its 1988 election promise to abandon the F5 freeway corridor through Wolli Creek Valley.

• I support measures to encourage the raiing of a far greater proportion of freight containers from Port Botany to Enfield and Campbelltown freight depots.

• I strongly protest against the manner in which the RTA has misused the Botany-West Transport Study.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

SIGNATURE

DATE