



Stop Light Rail

Rethink Gold Coast Transport



Stop Light Rail Our Environment

The adverse effects of a light rail rapid transit system for the Gold Coast will be significant. A light rail transit system will have detrimental effects not only on the local people but also on the local flora and fauna. From our research it is apparent that the following effects are all real as most have been experienced at some time in the past in areas where light rail transit systems have been introduced.

1. Effects on the local people

- Visual pollution caused by tracks and overhead wires
- Removal of trees and the visual impact of their removal
- Dangers to pedestrians and cyclists
- Restricted access to the highway with the removal of slip roads
- Waiting times at crossings
- Access problems for emergency vehicles particularly fire trucks with ladders (overhead wires) and other emergency vehicles
- Traffic congestion both during and after construction
- Threats to parklands and other green spaces which will potentially be taken for carparking
- Road closures for lengthy periods and restriction on access to residences and businesses during construction
- Stations which attract criminal behaviour
- Greenhouse gas emissions created by the production of electric power for trains. These emissions will continue for possibly 30 years.
- Impact on water quality during construction
- Silting of waterways which are used for fishing and boating
- Noise and vibration both during construction with concrete breaking and piling and post construction from trains. This will also have an effect on building foundations and the stability of buildings
- Air pollution during construction



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- Loss of walkways and cycleways
- Parking in side streets adjacent to stations
- Land to be compulsorily acquired for tracks, stations, bridges and electricity supply stations
- Siting of electricity supply stations adjacent to residences and/or businesses
- If light rail, as opposed to bus transport, is the preferred option the costs will be substantially greater (experts say at least 3 times). This difference in costs will have to be borne by Gold Coast ratepayers
- Psychological effects caused by all of the issues referred to above.
- If light rail proceeds the anticipated blowout in costs could very well prevent the completion of stage 2 from Broadbeach to Coolangatta. What then?

2. Effects on the local flora and fauna

- Loss of green space including thousands of trees along the proposed route which currently provide a habitat for numerous species of flora and fauna
- Loss of wet areas which will impact on finfish and shellfish
- Mangroves will be destroyed in areas where the light rail route passes alongside or over waterways
- Loss of not only rare and endangered species but also the more common ones
- Bank erosion along waterways leading to sedimentation and a possible increase in flood levels
- Discharge of acid water into waterways during construction
- Destruction of the park and beach at Jarriparilla Cove by the intrusion of a station and the two crossings.

Are these effects acceptable when other more cost effective and less destructive means of transport are available? We strongly believe they are not and urge all Gold Coast residents to voice their concerns regarding light rail to both Translink and to the Gold Coast City Council before it is too late to stop this ill-considered light rail project