

Madam Mayor, councillors, council staff, media and the community.

My name is Andrew Simpson. I was not born, nor raised in Camden. I do not belong to multiple generations in the area, and yet I feel as if I was always meant to live here.

In October 2010, my now wife and I were the victims of a home invasion in our home in Lane Cove, where a young man used a shovel to smash open a downstairs sliding glass door whilst we were asleep upstairs.

Such was the noise that I jumped out of bed and ran to the front window to check what I assumed to be a car crash on the street. It was at this point I could hear somebody in our house downstairs.

My wife immediately called 000, thankfully we did not have children at this time, and we made our way out to an external balcony, not wanting to go into the house, where people unknown were inside, with easy access to knives etc in our kitchen below.

Mid call to 000 the perpetrator appeared at our sliding door, and luckily was in a state of mind that I could talk to him whilst waiting for the police, who arrived within approximately 10 minutes of the call and arrested him.

Some days later, the man reappeared at our door with his father, to profusely apologise for his actions, explaining them on a big night out.

I am 40 years of age, and have done many stupid things on many a night out – never once anything close to his charges of “malicious damage and entering an enclosed land”

This incident presented a stigma to me on the house, and as well as the significant over development of Lane Cove with apartments WITHOUT appropriate public transport, we made a somewhat easy decision to escape the city to Cobbitty.

Camden Council had what I saw to be a plan to take them through to 2040, and as my wife was originally from the area, with most of her family still here, it confirmed that Camden could be “the best of both worlds”. The freedom of choice to move to an area where we believed our hopes and dreams could come to fruition.

On 26th March, 2018, the NSW Government presented a lovely wedding anniversary gift to my wife, Jess, who works from home with her successful business.

The Government lackeys walked the length of our 300m drive to hand her the documents for the Outer Sydney Orbital, and when asked where it was going, said it was all in the envelope and literally ran back up the drive to their waiting bus, with no answer. It wasn't until my wife opened the envelope that she saw the proposed route going straight through not only our home, but that of my brother in law and his partner who live in a secondary dwelling on our property, and our neighbours.

Since that date, we have been asking many questions of Transport for NSW, and the NSW Government, much of which on public record, with no answers of any substance. We have been told the consultation period has only just begun and to get our submissions in. What is the point of an uninformed submission? Why is the community asked to do the NSW Governments job in determining the route of the corridor? The very wording of a “recommended corridor” implies this is the very best Transport for NSW can do. This is not a consultation, and it's clearly not good enough.

My initial reaction was to send the road west, to the depths of beyond, out of sight and out of mind. I started researching. I haven't stopped researching to this minute. My considered opinion is that we do not need the motorway, and we certainly don't need the freight rail running through Macarthur. As suggested last night at Wollondilly Council, build the roads correctly the first time, or upgrade our existing roads that are in desperate need of expansion – the Hume / M7 / M2 / M5. Build the local roads correctly the first time – Narellan Road, Northern Road, Camden Valley Way. Build the future roads correctly such as the M12. The freight rail can use other corridors, as confirmed by Transport for NSW. Give us the passenger rail now.

There are significantly larger issues at play with regard to environmental aspects – pollution (air/noise/visual/water), flooding, heritage properties, and property devaluation, not to mention the significant physical and mental health effects we have heard and seen over the past 58 days.

I have helped bring life into this world, and I have experienced love and loss. I have never before felt the pain, helplessness and despair of this process.

It was suggested to me last night that real men don't hide behind masks. That real men show their pictures on their Facebook profile. If I have been hiding it was in plain sight. My family was in the local paper on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. I made myself known to the community that attended the Cobbitty Public School meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. My family, friends, business associates and the community know who I am and what stand for. I will unashamedly do what I can to protect my family, especially my children, and the community at large as to the effects of this proposal. We have seen what happens when some developers don't get their way. We are not anti-development. The developers are only doing what they do because a morally and process corrupt NSW State Government is allowing them to do so. We appreciate the need for considered, sustainable, future planning.

The processes they have followed are significantly broken, and substantially influenced by developer and NSW Government land holdings, all of which we can show and prove.

We are the second owners of our house, which was only built in 2007, and thus we understand we too could be part of the problem. Camden Council approved the appropriate development for the land then, we ask that you continue to do so now.

When we moved to the Camden in 2014, the population was approximately 65,000 – the estimate for 2017 was 87,250, and the forecast for 2018 is 98,419, and for 2036 the forecast is 233,299.

We need the appropriate infrastructure to start now, in efficient fast mass public transport, local road upgrades, schools and hospitals, to name a few.

We have not yet had our own one on one with Transport for NSW, rather prioritising the research gathering and community collaboration to this point.

I applaud and support the majority of the draft Camden Council submission to Transport for NSW, but Please don't be like Transport for NSW, Please don't be like the NSW Government, Please don't be like them. Work together with your neighbourly councils, don't just shift the problem into Wollondilly. An approximate 11.5km tunnel suggestion from north of Cobbitty Village through to the southern point of the Camden LGA boundary is not a solution. It's just part of the not in my backyard problem.

Thank you