

New Metro Power Line Disruption

By Peter Egan and Peter Wilton



A sign of things to come? Recent works on Hampden Rd . Photo courtesy of P Bassarov.

Transport for NSW has proposed the construction of a new electricity power line from the Artarmon industrial area to North Chatswood under local roads, in a route that includes Hampden Rd and Brand St. These works will require the partial closure of 2 lanes on Hampden Rd for a period between 6 to 12 months. This will cause major disruption to the Hampden Rd area and, as a result, will cause Artarmon to grind to a halt.

Hampden Rd is Artarmon's main road. It is the only road that can be used to travel across and through Artarmon. It links Artarmon east and west sides, and provides resident access to Artarmon Public School, local child care, shops, medical facilities and the industrial area.

The new power line requires a jointing bay to be built on the intersection of Hampden Rd and Brand St. A jointing bay is a large concrete structure that is around 3.5 metres wide and 10.0 metres long. Although the jointing bay will be installed underground, the roadway it occupies will be blocked to traffic for the 6 -12 month period it is being constructed and whilst the power lines in

the immediate area are being laid.

As a result of Transport for NSW's power line proposal, the Artarmon community will experience significant traffic disruption from the extended partial closure of Hampden Rd and the blocking of the Brand St intersection.

The Artarmon Village shops will be severely disrupted by this proposal. These shops rely on passing traffic for business. The construction works will reduce on street parking, limiting the ability to park near the shops. This, together with the traffic disruption, will lead to customers avoiding the area and loss of business to the shops. The lost business could be permanent, as new shopping habits are developed and residents fail to return to the Village.

The business disruption will undermine the viability of the Artarmon Village shops and could result in the closure of more shops.

Transport for NSW discarded five other possible routes for the new power line. One of these used the existing rail corridor that runs from St Leonards to Chatswood. This option was not

considered because of concerns over access to the rail corridor. It is understood that the cost of this option was lower than the proposed route, it being shorter and more direct and requiring limited road excavation.

A potential option that was not considered by Transport for NSW was the use of the new Chatswood metro rail tunnels for the new power line. These tunnels will pass under Artarmon, within a few hundred metres of the proposed power line route, and the tunnels will have a similar power line contained within it. It is understood that this option was not considered because construction of the tunnels will not be completed in time for the opening of the Chatswood to Epping metro line in 2019.

Artarmon Progress Association (APA) is extremely concerned by the proposed power line route under Hampden Rd and is working with Willoughby City Council and Artarmon Village to highlight to Transport for NSW the impact on the Artarmon community.

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