I am pleased to be able to submit to this CAC paper.
The expansion of public transport (as your consultation paper notes) is essential in increasing good air quality. Clean air and healthier people. Where there are more cars (with increase in road spending) this leads to worse air quality, worse public health, stress and all the other domino effects of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. In the inner city, in areas of high density, in places where good public transport can be accessed (and where people can / could cycle or walk to work/school/uni) it's folly to build more roads. This is retrograde practice (see overseas for forward-thinking countries and their focus on good health/good air quality/good public transport (good cycling infrastructure). While we know that the population of Sydney is increasing, it would seem sensible to focus on areas for increased population where there is already good (i.e. above average of the minimum air quality standard) air quality.
If we're really serious about reducing polluted air, or increasing clean air, look at our streets! Look at schools at peak times (drop off /pick up) and what do you see? I see cars, cars and more cars. I see kids who live within a 5k radius being driven to school. Why? Because 'there's too much traffic for Little Jenny to walk to school". We need to make cycling EASY for parents. We need mums to feel empowered and safe to let their kids cycle or walk (skateboard/scooter) to school. We need to spend over 5% of the transport and road budget on cycling. This is money well spent (and given wear and tear of cycles on roads is minimal compared to cars/trucks etc.).
Use bikes: e-bikes/cargo bikes for small distance deliveries (no hassle parking! cheaper for the courier company as less petrol needs to be bought). For the last few kilometres of delivery it makes sense to be on a bike!
One more bike is one less car ergo on the road to recovery for the clean air NSW so desperately needs and our children deserve.

"So long as men (and women) can breathe" (Shakespeare to you).
Thanks for your consideration.
Philippa Vice