

**ITEM                    MAYORAL MINUTE: RAIL UNDERPASS - CONCORD WEST & LIBERTY GROVE**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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I raised this issue at the 20 November 2012 Council meeting in relation to concerns about the closure of two underpasses from Queen St to Concord West, one near Liberty Grove and one near Concord West Station. This issue has also been raised by the Liberty Grove resident representative on the Community Associations' Committee.

The concern is that the 3,000 residents in Liberty Grove rely on this underpass for access to the adjoining suburbs, their services and schools, including a large contingent of bicycle riders who access Sydney Olympic Park.

The recent Child and Family Needs Strategy highlighted the need for safe pedestrian and cycle ways for children and families to travel to school, reducing congestion on roads and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Given the concerns of the community and the physical division that would result from closing these underpasses Council resolved to:

1. Write to RailCorp and the relevant ministers to seek commitment to the retention of safe convenient and appropriate connections between Liberty Grove and Concord West.
2. Write to the State Member to seek his support in retaining these vital pedestrian and cycling links.
3. That the community be advised of council's actions to support their retention of their access across the rail corridor.

Council has written to RailCorp, the relevant ministers and the State Member about this issue, only RailCorp responded, however no clear commitment to maintain access for the community has been made. A copy of the response from RailCorp has been circulated to Councillors under separate cover. The residents of Liberty Grove have been advised by Railcorp that the closure is temporary but are still concerned that no firm date or timeframe for re-opening has been given, and no commitment has been given to re-establishing a safe and convenient access.

I call on Council to write again to RailCorp, the relevant Ministers and the State Member to clarify the length of time the temporary closure will be in place and to provide a clear commitment on the reopening date of the rail underpasses.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council write to RailCorp, the relevant Ministers and the State Member to provide a clear commitment on the reopening date of the rail

underpasses, and the reestablishment of a safe and convenient access for our community.

2. THAT the community be advised of Council's actions to support the retention of their access across the rail corridor.
3. THAT the members of our Community Associations' Committee be advised of the outcome.

