**2. Letter to editor Daily Telegraph 23 May 2018 [edit]**

**Facts not propaganda please**

With the Premier saying the transport chaos will be fixed a year and a half from now, the public needs transport facts well prior to the election next March.

Project Sydney (Daily Telegraph 23 May 2018) again failed to do so making some absurd claims about rail: claiming Metro trains running every 4 minutes will carry 46,000 people per hour while the 'entirety of the current Sydney train network can move just 24,000 people an hour'.

Simple arithmetic shows how far from the truth this is. Metro trains carrying an average of 3067 people? As those trains have around 380 seats per six car set will we see nearly 2,700 people standing per train?

In comparison the existing Sydney system carried more than a million people per day in April (even with 3 public holidays!) - a vastly higher rate than the quoted figure. Its current capacity per line is a minimum of 26,000 people per hour - with a train every 3 minutes each providing nearly two and a half times the seats of a 6 car Metro train.

To top this off, the comment that the project (NorthWest Metro) will dramatically free up train lines is also demonstrably false. It will lead to rail congestion as trains previously using the Epping-Chatswood line will need to be re-routed or cancelled.

This is not to say Sydney Trains are always good and rapid transit systems always bad – it’s a matter of horses for courses.

Interestingly, reports have the total - seated and standing - capacity of a Sydney double-decker and a Metro train about equal at around 1,200. A more modern double-deck - such as used in Paris - could carry near the magic 3000 people the article implied for a Metro train, but does the small size of Sydney's Metro tunnels might preclude their use?

The public deserves facts, not propaganda and the only way of getting this seems to be an open public inquiry as I suggested earlier this week.

J Austen