

MONA VALE

Opposition transport spokeswoman Jodi McKay discusses B-line concerns at Village Park in Mona Vale. Pictures: Adam Yip



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Jodi McKay

Safety a concern at B-Line stop: ALP

MP criticised as residents meet Labor's transport spokeswoman

Robbie Patterson

OPPOSITION transport spokeswoman Jodi McKay has branded the placement of a B-Line bus stop in Mona Vale a safety risk.

Ms McKay met with the Save Mona Vale group, which wants the nearby bus stop in Waratah St retained. She said the group felt shut out of the process because Pittwater state Liberal MP Rob Stokes had refused to meet them.

Ms McKay vowed to put questions to Mr Stokes when Parliament returns in a fortnight, but he said he had met with many group members and was not aware of any unanswered questions.

Save Mona Vale interim chair Mark Edwards has taken umbrage that Mr Stokes has not attended any of its public meetings.

Ms McKay voiced concerns over the positioning of the stop.

"It is dark, it is isolated," she said. "People who have a disability or are older and have access issues would have to walk through the park ... It seems to be no reason why they have moved it."

"They could have kept the current bus stop, taken one or two parking spaces. It seems to be an expense that isn't required."

But Mr Stokes said the area would be well lit and have increased pedestrian activity as Mona Vale's new transport hub.

"Safety is the very reason we are moving that bus stop to Village Park," he said.

He said buses stopped just before Waratah St, creating a dangerous situation as cars turned in front of the buses.

"A number of people have raised concerns, particularly when younger children and elderly people are catching the bus," he said.

He argued that the footpath where buses pulled up was narrow and a danger to school students waiting for buses, which had "long been recognised as a safety issue".

Despite the Mona Vale Place Plan - which advocated for building of up to six storeys - being withdrawn pending community consultation, the Save Mona Vale group believes the B-line is being used as a "Trojan horse" for the project.

"The B-Line as offered is wholly insufficient to improve traffic flows on our roads, especially when we know that there are at least 13,000 more people coming from developments at Ingle-side and projections in the Mona Vale Place Plan for more people," Mr Edwards said.