

From: Christopherholding@yahoo.co.uk <christopherholding@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Saturday, 28 March 2020 4:05 PM
To: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au <willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: naomi.moss@planning.nsw.gov.au <naomi.moss@planning.nsw.gov.au>; office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au <office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au>; mayor <mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Wollstonecraft Precinct Committee <wollstonecraft.precinct@hotmail.com>; Bay Precinct <bayprecinct@gmail.com>; neutral Precinct Committee <neutralprecinct@yahoo.com.au>; waverton Precinct Committee <precinctwaverton@gmail.com>; Lavender Bay Precinct Committee <lavenderbayprecinct@gmail.com>; unionprecinct@gmail.com <unionprecinct@gmail.com>; parksprecinct@gmail.com <parksprecinct@gmail.com>; precincts <precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au>; registry.precinct.cammeray@gmail.com <registry.precinct.cammeray@gmail.com>; Harrison Precinct <harrison.precinct@gmail.com>; edwardprecinct@iinet.net.au <edwardprecinct@iinet.net.au>; Cremorne Point Precinct Committee <cremptpc@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Extension to WHT - EIS consultation

28/3/2020

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP (Premier NSW)

cc: The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP (Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)
cc: All Precincts North Sydney Council

Please find below my submission, sent yesterday, to The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP (Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)

With your valuable efforts absorbed in managing the COVID-19 pandemic it would seem pertinent to halt other "non essential" government work.

The indefinite extension of the WHT - EIS consultation (until after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted) - which is neither immediate or essential - would be the fairest strategy for your own departments and Sydney as a whole.

As articulated below to the Minister for Planning, the ability for the North Sydney community to meet and discuss this proposal has been severely hampered.

A proper extension to this consultation (factoring in COVID-19) is not only necessary but the right thing to do.

A brief timeline...

The WHT - EIS was put on display at the beginning of **February 2020**.

Our community group met approximately 10 days after it was published. We are an unpaid community group acting in our spare time.

At this juncture we had not had enough time to either access or properly digest the 9000 page report.

By **February 11th** John Hancox, Chair of Wollstonecraft Precinct in North Sydney wrote to TfNSW (attached) concisely outlining that there was insufficient time for the community to properly analyse such a lengthy report.

March 11th - By our next advertised and scheduled meeting (our last before COVID-19 restrictions) we had read and discussed the WHT-EIS.

Normally for a meeting of this importance our attendance would be in excess of 50 people. With the community already beginning to "self isolate" we managed 24 people.

March 19th Members of the Brightmore Precinct Committee were scheduled to discuss the WHT-EIS with the Mayor of North Sydney and all Councillors at the "Tunks Ward Forum" - This was cancelled

March 25th - North Sydney Council meets to discuss their own 134 page report on the WHT - EIS. The council failed to achieve a quorum due to COVID-19.

Brightmore Precinct submitted a statement for this meeting.

This meeting is still postponed.

Cr. Jilly Gibson, Mayor of North Sydney, wrote to you requesting an extension.

March 27th - TfNSW forced to cancel a WHT-EIS public/community engagement session at North Sydney Council.

Realistically our community group has been unable to be active since March 12th. Sensibly all Precinct meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future because controlling COVID -19 is far more important than anything else.

It is within this environment that it would be deeply worrying if the NSW government were to press on with this "Consultation" deadline - regardless of the restrictions placed (quite necessarily) *by* the NSW government.

The State government cannot run an effective, fair and proper consultation - while at the same time restricting that community to meet?

That is not democratic and, I am sure you would agree, it is not fair.

Please extend the WHT - EIS consultation until after COVID -19 restrictions have been removed.

Thank you

Kind regards

Christopher Holding

Co-Convenor, Brightmore Precinct - North Sydney.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Christopherholding@yahoo.co.uk" <christopherholding@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: Extension to WHT - EIS consultation
Date: 27 March 2020 at 14:53:38 GMT+11
To: office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP (Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)

C/O Katie Stevenson - Chief of Staff.

27/3/2020

I would like to make four key points and request that these be seen by the Minister prior to 30th March 2020. Thank you.

1) NSW is the most populous State. It also has the most cases of COVID-19. Given that there has been necessary and severe restrictions placed on social, business and community engagement (by the NSW government) I call on the Minister for Planning to indefinitely suspend the Consultation on the WHT - EIS until NSW is clear of COVID-19.

It is untenable to believe that our community has had a reasonable and appropriate amount of time to meet, discuss and examine this large and complex proposal.

Most people in NSW are either currently on reduced hours, unemployed and/or home schooling their children.

The short extension of two weeks, previously granted by the Minister - prior to COVID-19, is insufficient and has unfortunately been entirely consumed by the restrictions of this global pandemic.

Does the Minister wish the consultation - and potential approval of this project - to forever be marked by the stain that it ignored one of the worst human disasters in over 50 years?

It's not much of a legacy.

I am Co-Chair of a North Sydney community group. We are unable to meet, TfNSW final community engagements were cancelled and North Sydney Council also failed to meet on March 23rd.

These are unprecedented times requiring unprecedented action and leadership.

This project should not be considered without a proper and uninterrupted community consultation - devoid of distraction.

The ability to adequately meet, discuss and inform has been prevented. The Ministers decision must reflect this major change of circumstance.

2) The WHT- EIS has not delivered for residents of North Sydney. The modelling and detail in the EIS required to demonstrate the many key changes and impacts to existing arterial roads (such as Military, Falcon, Ernest, Miller, Berry, Merlin St. etc.) is virtually non-existent.

The EIS has failed to provide clear models and graphical tools which highlight the changes for what are "local roads" for North Sydney residents.

I have requested such tools. For example, a TfNSW style "route planner" showing how the proposed new journeys will connect "from" and "to" user plug in destinations.

I was informed that this might be provided if requested specifically **after** the project is approved?

This doesn't sound like consultation. We can't (or won't) explain the road system until it is approved?

Proper and clear modelling of the filters, slip roads, traffic lights and junctions which will feed into this project has not been demonstrated as required by SEARS.

3) The permanent loss of Crown Land (Cammeray Golf Course) is entirely unacceptable. There should be no Net loss of Green Space in North Sydney after this proposal. The vent stack infrastructure should be hidden "underground" (with remediation above) as is the plan in Rozelle.

4) Utilising unfiltered ventilation stacks is not International best practice on a 7km tunnel and has not been modelled or explained properly.

There is huge public resistance to this increase in pollution.

The modelling does not account or include "local" North Sydney traffic waiting on slip roads, proposed "F rated" junctions and traffic lights in order to access the WHT and Warringah Freeway.

The key assumption of a Euro6 standard is also deeply flawed.

Ignoring the vastly Liberal electorate in this area is a mistake and I would urge you to extend this consultation until such time as Sydney can properly assess this project without fear of loss of life.

I am a sole trader and am unable to work, The Daily Telegraph journalist, with whom I spoke this morning, will finish next week and my wife (who works for Qantas) has been stood down.

Local and State government must continue but the rest of society is suffering.

The enormous distraction of this aborted consultation should be removed and I submit that the Minister is compelled to suspend the consultation.

Kind regards

Christopher Holding
Co-Convenor, Brightmore Precinct (North Sydney)