

The Director
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

6 August 2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Northern Beaches Hospital
Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project
Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northern Beaches Hospital, Frenchs Forest, Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project, Stage 2 EIS. As a general matter for consideration, Northern Beaches Health Promotion requests that the EIS adopts a framework which will promote health and well-being. We recommend the NSW Health Healthy Urban Development Checklist when commenting on development policies, plans and proposals.¹

GENERAL COMMENTS

As Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work is proposed to increase capacity of the road network and reduce congestion, we view the strategies minimising the impact of private vehicle use including new bus priority lanes, modern bus stops and an improved public transport network and frequency, as commendable. Furthermore, the two (pedestrian /cyclist) shared bridges crossing Warringah Rd, linking the new Northern Beaches Hospital and Forestway Shopping Centre with Frenchs Forest residents to the south, will create a more connected neighbourhood.

SPECIFIC POPULATION HEALTH ISSUES

Public transport

The Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project EIS, identifies the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system planned for the Northern Beaches. The proposed system will service the North-South corridor providing frequent 'turn-up-and go' services between Mona Vale and the Sydney CBD. Whilst this is a much-needed investment, it does not service the East-West corridor, linking the Northern Beaches with Chatswood via the Northern Beaches Hospital. The improved convenience and travel times delivered by a BRT system would increase public bus patronage, thereby reducing the reliance on private car use and vehicle congestion it causes.

Recommendation: The Bus Rapid Transit network (or equivalent) should be extended to include the East-West Corridor linking the Northern Beaches and Chatswood via the Northern Beaches Hospital and that the Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project makes provision for a future upgrade to include such a network.

Car pooling

Car pooling should be encouraged to reduce the number of private motor vehicles on the road. During peak hours a transit lane (T3) is in operation on the North – South link between the Northern Beaches and Sydney CBD.

Recommendation: That a transit lane (T3) be introduced on Warringah Rd to be in operation during peak hours.

Park and ride facility

Facilities for commuters to park their cars or bicycles prior to using public transport is important so as to encourage people not to drive to their destination. Current parking demand on Naree Road, Rabbett Street and Frenchs Forest Road has been attributed to public transport customers needing to park and ride².

Recommendation: That RMS provides park and ride facilities to cater for residents who don't live walking distance away from bus stops on main bus routes. The bicycle parking facilities should be well lit and in a secure, covered area³.

Bicycle linkages to the site

Active transport infrastructure improves linkages within neighbourhoods and to local destinations. The resulting increase in community connectedness and physical activity levels, as well as the reduced car-dependence, offers both health benefits (such as decreased risk of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes) and environmental benefits. Stage 2 EIS is to be commended for linking the shared path (pedestrian and cyclist) to the planned hospital and its surrounding suburb, however it is recommended that separated paths be built as they may reduce the potential for conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

The maps (Pages 10-13) do not show how cyclists riding south on Forest Way's shared path cross Forest Way to access the shared bridge in order to ride west on Warringah Rd. Nor does it show how cyclists riding west on Warringah Rd's shared path turn into Forest Way, unless it is via the shared ramp at Fitzpatrick Ave East.

Recommendation: That RMS provides separated paths that connect the planned Northern Beaches Hospital to its surrounding communities and detail how cycling connections are made between Forest Way and Warringah Rd in its proposed pedestrian and cyclist management plans.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comment on the planning for the roads connecting the new Northern Beaches Hospital to its catchment area.

Yours sincerely,



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References

1. NSW Department of Health (2009), *Healthy Urban Development Checklist: when commenting on development policies, plans and proposals*.
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/gl/2010/GL2010_001.html
2. Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project EIS Vol 2 Oct 2014
3. NSW Police's 'Crime Prevention by Environmental Design' (CPTED).
www.police.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/9390/duapguide_s79c.pdf