

19 August 2015

Director of Infrastructure  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

**Re: Stage 2 of the Northern Beaches Hospital Connectivity and Network Enhancement Works**

The Australian Plant Society NSW Ltd (APS NSW) welcomes the opportunity to comment on Stage 2 of the Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project

APS NSW is a not-for-profit organisation that has been established for over 50 years. The Society is committed to the propagation and conservation of Australian native plants and their associated ecosystems.

The Society opposes Stage 2 of the NBH Road Connectivity and Network enhancement project. Our opposition is based on the information provided within the EIS: the enormous loss of the Duffys Forest Ecological Community, the destruction of the wildlife corridor and the anticipated continuing negative effects after completion of the work on the surrounding bushland.

The loss of 6.1 ha of Duffys Forest Ecological Community (DFEC), an already endangered ecological community is not acceptable. Whilst the community consultation document seems to imply that it is only the DFEC in this region that will be reduced and that elsewhere this community is perhaps abundant, the fact is that it does not exist elsewhere. Less than 16% of its original area is in existence, which has always been limited to ridge tops in this region. After the loss of 5.1 ha for the hospital further eradication of 6.1 ha for the roads is likely to make the DFEC critically endangered and, within Frenchs Forest area extinct, within a short time. The Society submits that is an unacceptable outcome for any ecological community and especially for one that is characterised by its extraordinary plant biodiversity.

The wildlife corridor between the Oxford Falls area and Manly Dam, a priority 1 wildlife corridor, is at the moment already limited particularly given the six lane Warringah Road which crosses it. The proposed channel and soundproofing by a high wall will result in a 100% separation of this corridor for terrestrial animals.

The spotted tail quoll found in the Oxford Falls/Belrose bushland last year could potentially, at this stage, still cross over into the Manly Dam bush land. As no evidence of it was found during the survey it was deemed unnecessary to include it in the EIS. This needs to be addressed.

Secondly, whilst swamp wallabies are not threatened, the destruction of this wildlife corridor will make the Manly Dam population locally threatened and their survival would be unlikely.

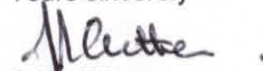
Many plants rely on animals for their reproduction and many pollinators are still unknown to us and ecological communities need to be preserved as a whole.

It is predicted that due to edge effects further DFEC will be negatively affected by weed and exotic fauna invasion. Also one good section adjacent to the hospital site is judged to suffer from severely altered drainage patterns. These further impacts are not calculated in the 6.1 ha.

Noting that the average travel time after building the proposed roads will in the pm peak still be longer than the travel time that was needed in 2012 for those journeys, we are at a loss to understand why such a destructive plan is considered all together.

If this development goes ahead, we request serious consideration be given to all offsets being found within the local area and not in other parts of NSW.

Yours sincerely



John Aitken  
President  
Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

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**President:** John Aitken  
**Vice President:** Alix Goodwin  
**Secretary:** Heather Miles