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20th August 2015

To: RMS / Department of Planning and Environment, Infrastructure, Major Projects

Regarding The Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project, Stage 2.

I wish to object in the strongest terms to the extent of the Stage 2 road connectivity proposals near the Northern Beaches Hospital, Frenchs Forest. I understand that the roads in the area need to be upgraded to reduce congestion in the hospital area, but believe the current Stage 2 proposals would be a gross over-development. Construction works would disrupt the area for years and there would be unacceptable long term environmental impacts. The area is currently an important wildlife corridor at the head of several catchments and includes natural areas that need sensitive solutions. I believe that the current plans should be withdrawn and that a lower capacity and lower impact solution be sought. There are ample opportunities for the roads and public transport in this area to be redeveloped and improved with significantly less adverse impacts.

My concerns include

- Excessive widening. The plans show numerous sections of Warringah Road are to be widened to 10 to 12 lanes and some to 14 lanes (eg just west of Wakehurst Parkway). This is over-the top.
- The extended 1.3km long open slot/underpass would divide the suburb for people and wildlife.
- The attractive vegetated roadsides would be substantially lost and turned to bitumen and concrete.
- Environmental impacts. Most of the remaining bushland in this area would be lost or severely impacted. The plan does not make sufficient attempts to mitigate these impacts.
- Excavations for the underpass would impact on groundwater and surface water flow and affect remaining bushland including the endangered vegetation community.
- Drainage changes would impact on local and downstream habitats, flow regimes and water quality. This would in turn impact on vegetation and fauna species such as the red crowned toadlet and climbing galaxias fish downstream in Curl Curl Creek and the Manly Dam catchment. (Climbing Galaxias have been seen there as recently as August 2015. For earlier galaxias references see eg

[http://iinet.net.au/~kenhiggs/manlydam/Environment/Galaxias/galaxias\\_fish.html](http://iinet.net.au/~kenhiggs/manlydam/Environment/Galaxias/galaxias_fish.html) and <http://iinet.net.au/~kenhiggs/manlydam/html/references.html>).

- Widening of Wakehurst Parkway between Warringah Road and Aquatic Drive would impact on bushland including the nearby Duffy's Forest Vegetation Community and reduce the regional wildlife corridor.
- The extension of Aquatic Drive westward to Wakehurst Parkway would destroy additional bushland, further reduce the wildlife corridor and further impact on the headwaters of Curl Curl Creek that flows to Manly Dam.
- Inadequate planning for public transport. Traffic problems could be reduced if more public transport was provided.
- Surface impacts and the proposed road footprint could be significantly reduced by making more of the surface roads over the top of the slot/underpass lanes. eg the Warringah Road east-bound surface traffic turn-right lanes into Wakehurst south bound, could be above the eastbound slot lanes. The Southern Cross Drive/South Dowling Street upgrade used this method successfully.

I hope these views can be considered and that the impacts of this proposal can be reduced.

Ken Higgs