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Sent: Friday, 21 August 2015 4:03 PM
To: nbhroadwork@rms.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re Stage 2 NBH Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project

From: Jacqueline French, 1/11 Stuart St, Manly, NSW 2095
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Date: 21 August 2015 1:54:11 pm AEST

HEAL (Health, Environment, Access, Locality) regarding Stage 2 Northern Beaches Hospital Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement Project roadworks. Our group is concerned about the 4 topics represented within our name.

HEALTH.

This infrastructure project will not be healthy for humans, nor for our society, nor for future generations and certainly not for natural environment.

- . Local residents and visitors and commuters through the area will be losing good air quality,
- . quiet surroundings,
- . pleasant bush surroundings that convene mental well being,
- . social contacts with neighbours will be disrupted by having a dividing channel and walls in their midst
- . Destruction of a community hub and a little business district offering 4 restaurants, doctors, a chemist, a coffee and take away shop, a petrol station and a fishing station

ENVIRONMENT:

- . Almost all of the vegetation that is Frenchs Forest will be eradicated (6.13 ha) i.e. the Duffys Forest Ecological Community, DFEC (6.1ha)
 - . DFEC is an endangered ecological community which is predicted to become locally extinct.
- . SMEC found four threatened fauna species and no threatened flora species during their field surveys. Red- crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*), Powerful Owl (*Ninox stenua*), Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and Grey-headed Flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).
- . Further the area provides medium to high likelihood habitat for 40 threatened or endangered fauna species and 17 listed flora species.
- . The fact that these were not present during the field survey is not strong evidence that they do not exist in the proposed area, seasonal changes and dormancy can hide species easily over the timespan that was used for conducting the studies.
- . The impact of habit destruction is substantial and a cause for great concern.
- . Numbers regarding affected trees and hollows are not coherent. Pg 221 of Vol 1 states : about 65 hollow bearing trees will be removed for Stage 2 Project along Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road. Several of these trees have more than one hollow. A total of 103 hollows were counted in 65 trees.
- . Page 229 of Vol 1 states: About 85 hollow bearing trees will be removed for Stage 2 along Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road. Several of these trees have more than one hollow. A total of 129 hollows

were counted in the 85 trees. The following numbers regarding sizes and habitat provision equally do not match. Please rectify this confusion.

- . Ecological connectivity will be obliterated by the destruction of two existing wildlife corridors.

- . A large regional corridor, that links northern bushland from Garigal National Park, Oxford Falls and Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment with Manly Dam bushland and a small one that follows Warringah Rd along its southern side and connects bushland between east and west.

- . The large regional corridor is limited by Warringah - and Frenchs Forest road and we are pleased to read that SMEC has studies confirming that even bandicoots manage to cross the Warringah road barrier. From roadkill data, we know about the continuous use of the priority 1 or 'regional' wildlife corridor. It is used by large terrestrial animals including wallabies, bandicoots, possums and possibly echidnas and tiger quolls.

- . The Spotted Tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) which has recently been confirmed to be in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment will be unable to cross over to Manly Dam bushland and we disagree with the conclusion that this would have no adverse impact on the life cycle of this species. It certainly will have an impact on the genetic health of the population.

- . Connectivity considerations are in SMECs assessment reserved for threatened fauna species, connectivity must be preserved for all species as to prevent species becoming extinct in the otherwise isolated patch. To state: 'genetic testing is necessary to determine the the level of interaction between populations occupying habitat to the north and to the south of the study area' (SMEC) is against the precautionary principle which forms part of our legislation.

- . Roadkill data clearly confirms the movements of large terrestrial animals and the precautionary principle must be applied.

- . A lesser corridor follows along the bushland south of Warringah road and is used by birds and small animals predominantly.

- . We note that water run off patterns and habitat in rock formations are impacted. Acidity changes and nutrient loads are predicted from the increase in road surfaces. This will facilitate weed invasion and habitat decline and light will further deter movement in the corridor. Also noise levels will further degrade habitats for fauna.

- . The climbing Galaxias, a fish in the Manly Dam area that colonises Curl Curl creek will be placed at risk of extinction if water flows are not contained or if water quality degrades.

- . We do not accept the theory of offsetting; living flora and fauna in the Duffys Forest Ecological Community, cannot be ' offset'. The forest is a non replaceable asset. The only time an offset might work is when it came from an adjacent area.

- . ACCESS:

Road access to the hospital is perfectly secured with the widening of Frenchs Forest road.

For active travel the options remain unsatisfactory or in decline.

- . The placement of the shared path between road and noise barrier will be most unpleasant to users and the enclosure of the path between retaining wall and noise barrier opposite Forest Way will feel unsafe. A pleasant bush path in existence will be lost to a hostile environment.
- . The proposed road upgrade will in no way contribute to enhancing active travel. It will encourage car use within the studied area.

LOCALITY:

The locality at Frenchs Forest is incapable of having the proposed infrastructure and keeping its identity.

- . None of the forest will remain, and residents, who are mostly families will be displaced by the horrific impact of noise and traffic and loss of bushland amenity.
- . This plan will destroy the locality as a family living area.
- . The forest is also one of the two characteristic trademarks of the Northern Beaches. Its destruction will lead to the loss of identity in Frenchs Forest.

In conclusion, the damage to Frenchs Forest, its residential neighbourhood area, its natural environment, the priority one wildlife corridor, local businesses, healing provisions for patients in the hospital and its damage to active transport are unacceptable.

The benefits of saving a few seconds travelling along the affected roads are so minimal that Stage 2 should be scrapped and the money used for more important and beneficial projects.

We further find the community summary document misleading and the time commitment necessary for studying over 2,500 pages next to impossible for people with ordinary life commitments, we therefore request an extension of four (4) weeks for the community feedback.

Jacqueline French
Secretary, HEAL,

Northern Beaches.

Sent from my iPad