

SUBMISSION TO EIS EXHIBITION ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL

After perusing the documents available as part of the EIS exhibition, please find below my comments. As I have been away until today and will be away again shortly, the exhibition documents could not be perused in the detail I would have liked to.

The comments are made

1. The State Significant Infrastructure Application EIS for Stage 1 notes a business /retail area on the southern side of Warringah Road. This appears to be the existing businesses and retail shop area. There is no mention of new businesses and/or retail shops being planned for the new development.
 - The development of the Northern Beaches Hospital provides unique opportunity to not only provide a first class health facility but also to provide a community hub, including some businesses, retail shops and community services. Ideally this would be achieved without having to cross Warringah Road.
Not all may be able to be achieved within the initial timeframe. However the concept plan should look beyond the initial project completion date and allow for future staged work enhancing the site as a community hub.
2. Is it planned to upgrade Frenchs Forest Road? As this road is already stretched during peak times and the main access to the hospital is planned to be via Frenchs Forest Road, an upgrade would seem to be imperative.
3. The traffic planning should include for bicycle traffic not only within the boundaries of the development but should take this opportunity to plan for bicycle path for all the major roads in the area. Again not all may be achieved within the project time frame but there should be a long term plan.
4. The SSIA notes that the implications of flooding on the Wakehurst Parkway should be considered. It appears though that as part of this development only relatively minor changes may be occurring. There should be short/medium/long term plan to eliminate flooding from the Wakehurst Parkway
5. As the council in its submission notes, traffic is a key issue for this development. Not only in the immediate vicinity of the hospital site but beyond it. There are currently roads, such as Dundilla Road, that are now used to circumvent the traffic on the main roads. At present this is primarily the case approximately 3 hours in the morning and in the late afternoon. However with the new hospital this may occur then occur more and more during the entire day. The traffic planning should look at this impact and plan for measures to eliminate business / hospital traffic from these roads.