

Theresa and Duncan Amos
24a Gladys Avenue
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086
(accessible via Bantry Bay Track
at 112a Frenchs Forest Road)

29th November 2013

Attention: Director, Industry, Social Projects and Key Sites

Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Subject: SSI 5982 Northern Beaches Hospital – Exhibition of State Significant Infrastructure Application

We do not oppose the need for a new hospital on the Northern Beaches, in fact we agree that due to the ageing population and increase in younger families moving to the area, there is a significant need for another hospital somewhere in the northern beaches locality. However, we do oppose the State Significant Infrastructure Application No. 5982 Northern Beaches Hospital concept proposal.

Our significant concerns are below and are based on the size and scope of the concept proposal of Application 5982.

1. Traffic and Main Entrances on Frenchs Forest Road

The impact with entrances on Frenchs Forest Road is horrendous to all local residents and all those that use it.

Having read the 'Appendix C Traffic and Transport Assessment' there seems to have been much time taken in examining the traffic conditions on Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway, Naree Road and Bantry Bay Road. However we found little, if not no assessments at all had been undertaken of Frenchs Forest Road where two main entrances are planned.

1. Frenchs Forest Road is a **local** road to be used by residents only. It does not have the width or the capacity to cope with the proposed 1,000 extra cars. A local road is meant for local residents. Nowhere in the traffic assessment does it indicate that the local road will no longer be a local road, nor widened.
2. Frenchs Forest Road is already heavily congested during several times of the day.
 - a. Firstly with school traffic: cars and buses. Cars taking children to school, park anywhere they can to pick up their children. Where will they park when the streets are taken up by hospital visitors seeking free parking rather than hospital paid parking? How are school children going to get to and from

school on time with this additional hospital traffic – estimated to be 1,000 extra cars?

- b. Secondly and more importantly, hundreds of cars daily use Frenchs Forest Road as a cut through to get onto Wakehurst Parkway or Warringah Road to avoid the busy Warringah Road/Forest Way intersection. During peak traffic times Frenchs Forest Road is gridlocked for several hours both morning and afternoon through into the evening. Traffic along Frenchs Forest Road heading onto Wakehurst Parkway is backed up as far as Adams Street and Forest Way. I have estimated 200 cars at a standstill waiting to get on and off Frenchs Forest Road at any one time. Why has no mention of this been detailed in the report?
3. We live on a shared driveway (right of way) known as 112A Frenchs Forest Road or Bantry Bay Track, which has 13 homes. This is opposite Bantry Bay Road (which is proposed to be the second entrance to the hospital). We are already highly restricted in entering and exiting our property. We have a **DO NOT QUEUE ACROSS THE INTERSECTION** signpost by our driveway and we also have a **KEEP CLEAR** sign clearly painted in front of our driveway on Frenchs Forest Road, yet more often than not, both notices are completely ignored by motorists. It can take up to 15 minutes for the **KEEP CLEAR** zone to be clear and for a motorist to let our car out onto Frenchs Forest Road, quite often making our children late for school. More often than not, we end up having to push our way out to get our children to school on time. This is already dangerous for our children. The concept is to have a second entrance opposite our driveway. We would like to know how we will enter and exit our driveway with this additional traffic entering and exiting the hospital opposite our drive way? **It will be impossible.** This also causes significant bushfire concerns as the 13 homes occupying 112A Frenchs Forest Road also known as Bantry Bay Track back onto bush.
4. The traffic assessment states that an intersection with traffic lights will be added on Frenchs Forest Road between Gladys Avenue and the main hospital entrance site. This road is already gridlocked in peak commuter traffic time as well as school drop off times. The hospital entrance site is unfeasible itself.
5. This report is almost 3 years old. Frenchs Forest Road is a gridlock in peak traffic times and the number of vehicles using this road in the report is wholly and currently inaccurate.
6. In 2.1.3 of the Traffic and Transport Assessment: FRENCHS FOREST ROAD WEST/ NAREE ROAD - Why has table 2 on page 9 not included traffic on Frenchs forest Road?
7. Given the volume of traffic on Frenchs Forest Road and the surrounding junctions, access for emergency vehicles will be impossible during both peak and school hours. Even with sirens, if an ambulance can't move due to gridlock, lives will be at risk.

It seems that nowhere in the current assessments have these severe traffic issues been properly acknowledged or considered. Frenchs Forest Road is not built for more traffic and surly removing access from Frenchs Forest Road and directing traffic into the hospital site from the main surrounding arterial roads is a better concept. Traffic needs to be managed correctly and also have traffic growth capacity built into the plan given the Northern Beaches areas heavy population growth.

2. Mental Health centre, with entrance on Frenchs Forest Road

Having moved to an extremely safe family friendly suburb with 2 young children, I feel uneasy about having a mental psychotic ward so close to our residence, especially with the entrance planned from a local residential street and more importantly next to a public school entrance.

If it is essential to move the mental health institution to Frenchs Forest, then please consider the residents and ensure the obvious fact that any entrances should be located on Warringah Road or Wakehurst Parkway which is far less residential, rather than having exit and entry points on Frenchs Forest Road.

3. Building Height out of Character with the Area

Given the land space, can the hospital not be spread better rather than be a 10 story high monstrosity, which is well out of character with the local area?

4. Common sense suggestions

- **Hospital Entrance;** this be positioned on Warringah Road or Wakehurst Parkway i.e. turn the 3 road intersection with Warringah Road and Hilmer Street into a 4 way intersection with the hospital entrance included, or create a second intersection with Warringah Road and Bantry Bay Road and have Bantry Bay Road as the main entrances with hospital roads within the hospital boundaries.
- **Frenchs Forest Road;** Maintain this as a local road. An idea would be to have the Ambulance entry only on Frenchs Forest Road and invest in the surrounding road infrastructure so that Frenchs Forest Road is no longer a rat run used to avoid the heavy traffic on Warringah Road. That way Ambulances have **quick exit and entry** into the Emergency Department rather than sit in gridlocked traffic with sirens blaring.
- **Parking;** an idea needs to be put forward to allow only non-hospital parking in the surrounding streets yet allow residents to have friends and family over with hassle free parking. The operator that manages this hospital needs to consider street parking. How will they ensure that hospital visitors and staff do not park on local residential streets? If this entails time limits on local streets, what then happens to the residents? We assume residents will be given street parking permits but what of the family and friends that visit them? Where do they park? Much thought needs to be given to ensure the lives of local residents are not forever disrupted, nor school pick up and drop off traffic impeded.



Entering Frenchs Forest Road from Bantry Bay Track

Yours faithfully

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