

Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Director, Industry, Social Projects and Key Sites

Submission against the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital – Frenchs Forest (SSI 5982)

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest for the following reasons:

1. The current road network providing access to the proposed hospital location is prone to severe traffic congestion and flooding. The proposed development will substantially increase traffic. Suitable traffic management plans and comprehensive costings to create adequate transport infrastructure have yet to be completed. Mitigation measures are likely to cost hundreds of millions and it would be irresponsible to proceed without the publication and budgeting of full costs.
2. The proposed hospital location is unreasonably close to the recently rebuilt Royal North Shore Hospital. Further, with the downgrading of Mona Vale Hospital, residents from the northern part of the peninsula will confront travel times of over half an hour (free from traffic congestion) to reach acute emergency care.
3. The proposed hospital will cause irreparable damage to the protected Duffys Forest Ecological Community. Endangered flora and fauna will be severely impacted and the crucial nature corridor between Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and Garigal National Park will be severed. The government's proposal to offset this devastation is weak and disingenuous and will not provide corridors for threatened species.
4. The proposed hospital will negatively impact on the local community by substantially increasing traffic, parking congestion and noise, light and air pollution. Existing and alternative hospital locations in the Northern Beaches area would have a far less significant and disruptive effect on their communities. The concerns of local residents have not been adequately addressed by the proposal or through consultation.
5. The proposed hospital will lead to the downgrading of comprehensive public health care in the region and the inevitable closure of Mona Vale Hospital. The proposed hospital will more than double the number of private beds available in the region, while there will not be a substantial gain in the number of public beds. Based on past experience, the privatisation of the build and management of the hospital will inevitably sacrifice the quality and quantity of public patient care to the pursuit of profits.

I urge you to reject this proposal in its current form.

Yours faithfully,

R. Henderson

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