

Dear Mr Player

Thank you for including the school and its community in the consultation process to date. We appreciate that you value our concerns and are willing to work with the school community over this project.

After reviewing Stage 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northern Beaches Hospital I have, on behalf of the school, some concerns:

Noise concerns

1. We have noticed that the background noise assessments were conducted during the school holidays. This is surely not an accurate indication as the traffic and surrounding noise levels are considerably less during this time, with less traffic and no students. This assessment is therefore unacceptable as it does not accurately detail the existing noise environment. We request that another noise assessment is done during school term time.
2. We are also concerned about the increase in noise levels when clearing of the site begins. Shutting classroom windows to eliminate the noise is unacceptable as ventilation is needed during both the warm weather and during the winter months (as gas heaters are used and ventilation is required). We cannot see any mitigating measures for these problems and request that further consultation with the school is needed to ensure that the teaching and learning opportunities of our students are not negatively impacted. This may involve such measures as restricting work close to A Block to before 9am and after 3pm or during school holidays.
3. Increased noise levels due to the clearing of the site will also impact the school in other ways such as the holding of school assemblies which are conducted outside under our COLA which is next to A Block. These assemblies are held every Wednesday at 10am – 10.30am. School sport also uses the playground areas on a Wednesday from 1pm – 2.30pm. Such school activities will also need to be considered.

Safety

1. It is also noted that both ends of Bantry Bay Road will be used during the clearing of the site. This raises a number of safety concerns. A number of our students walk past these areas every day before and after school hours. We are concerned as to the increased movement of trucks into and out of this area during this busy time of the day. It may be necessary to restrict such movement during these times (eg 7.45 – 9am, 2.30-3.30pm) to ensure the safety of our students.

Traffic

It is obvious that traffic will be increased during this stage and future stages. As previously mentioned this is a major concern for the safety of our students and for the wider community. The major concerns are:

1. Buses dropping students off at school and picking students up after school. This is a concern as we already have congestion at these times and with the added issue of trucks entering and leaving the site this will be compounded.

2. Consideration also needs to be taken into account on sports day (Wednesday), when students are transported to and from the site from 12pm, returning at 2.15pm.
3. We are also very concerned with the general increase in congestion on both Frenchs Forest Road west and Warringah Road. These roads are already congested during peak times, causing at times anxiety to parents and students. We believe that the clearing of the site will only add to this congestion, causing more anxiety for our school community with teachers, parents and students being late for school or arriving in a heightened state.

Construction Environment Management Plan

This Management Plan needs to be prepared, we believe, in close consultation with the school. We would therefore like to request the draft proposal to review. We are concerned about such issues as the impact on the school of, for example, air borne dust and seeds, especially as we have students who suffer from such allergies. We are also concerned about noise, safety and traffic issues that will arise during the construction of the hospital.

Finally, I request on behalf of the school community, ongoing consultation throughout all stages of this project.

Looking forward to hearing from you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Dean

Relieving Principal