

16 August 2021

Our Ref: F18/679
Our Contact: Howard Taylor – 9562 1663

Fadi Shakir
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Shakir,

Re: Bayside Council Submission: Kamay Ferry Wharf Project

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the exhibition of the Kamay Ferry Wharf Project. At its meeting of 11th August, Council resolved to endorse the attached submission for the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (Department) consideration. Council's resolution is reproduced below:

- 1. That Council acknowledges the importance of the Kamay Ferry Wharf Project to tourism by providing improved transport access, but also its great disappointment that a stop is not included on the western foreshore of Botany Bay.*
- 2. That Council endorses the attached submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and in doing so, requests that the scope of the Kamay Ferry Wharf Project be extended to include ferry wharves at Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.*
- 3. That Council makes representation to our local members, the member for Barton, the Member for Kingsford-Smith and the member for Cook on this matter.*

We trust that the Department will carefully consider Council's submission when assessing and determining the proposed development.

Yours sincerely



Clare Harley
Manager Strategic Planning

Attached:

- Council Submission

Postal address

PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216
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Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale
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BAYSIDE COUNCIL SUBMISSION
STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE - KAMAY FERRY WHARF PROJECT
(SSI-10049)

Introduction

On the 14th July 2021, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) notified Council of the exhibition of a State Significant Infrastructure Development Application for the Kamay Ferry Wharf Project (the Project). The proponent is Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

It is understood the project would reinstate the two ferry wharves in Botany Bay that were damaged during a storm in 1974. The primary purpose for these wharves would be to allow a ferry service to start operating again for the first time in over 40 years. The ferry service would provide an alternative way for people to access Kamay Botany Bay National Park (the National Park) other than by road. Commercial vessels and recreational boats would also be allowed to use the wharves.

The proposed development is for the purpose of two public ferry wharves. This type of development is permissible without consent under clause 68(4) of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* (Infrastructure SEPP), provided it is being undertaken by a public authority.

The project is State Significant Infrastructure by virtue of Clause 5.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPAA) and Clause 14 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* (SRD SEPP). TfNSW have formed the opinion that the project is likely to significantly affect the environment, and have therefore prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Council further understands that the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is the consent authority under Section 5.14 of the EPAA. On the 14th July 2021, the DPIE notified Council of the exhibition of the State Significant Infrastructure Development Application for the Project.

Full documentation of the Project can be found at:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/34291>

The Project proposes to include:

- Demolition of the existing viewing platform at Kurnell
- Construction of temporary ancillary works including access roads, compound areas, stockpiles, fencing and temporary building platforms (including a temporary causeway at Kurnell and temporary crane platform at La Perouse)
- Relocation of swing moorings at La Perouse
- Construction of two wharves on piles, one at La Perouse, and one at Kurnell, that would include:
 - A berth for passenger ferries (to cater for ferries between 15 metres to 40 metres in length)

- A multi-user berth for commercial and recreational vessels (to cater for small vessels between two metres and 20 metres long) Kamay Ferry Wharves
 - Sheltered waiting areas and associated furniture located on the wharves
 - Signage and lighting
- Landside paving and landscaping at the entrance to the wharves
 - New footpaths connecting the entrance of the wharves to the existing footpaths
 - Reconfiguration of existing car parking areas at La Perouse to increase the number of spaces, and associated footpath changes to accommodate these additional car parking spaces
 - Bicycle racks near the La Perouse wharf
 - Installation of utilities to service the wharves including power and water.

Part of the Project is located in Kamay Botany Bay National Park (the National Park), which is land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). As such, authorisation will be required for the project under the NPW Act.

Background:

At its meeting on the 10th June 2020, Council endorsed a Mayoral Minute (**Attachment 1**) calling on the NSW Minister for Transport to return the Brighton Le Sands Ferry service, connecting Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci with Kurnell and La Perouse:

1 That Council strongly urges the NSW Minister for Transport to lobby for the return of the Brighton Le Sands Ferry service, connecting Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci with Kurnell, La Perouse.

2 That Council seeks the support of all local State Members and Chambers of Commerce for this tourism initiative.

In accordance with Council's resolution of 10th June 2020, the Mayor wrote to the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport and Roads (Minister) (**Attachment 2**) and the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Tourism (**Attachment 3**), enclosing the Mayoral Minute and Council's resolution.

The Mayor also wrote to the Local Members for Cronulla; Maroubra; Heffron; Kogarah; and Rockdale, and the Bexley, St George and Bayside Chambers of Commerce to enclosing the Mayoral Minute and Council's resolution.

The Mayor again wrote to the Minister on 7th July 2020 (**Attachment 4**). The letter referred to the *Ferry Wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell Final Feasibility Report* (Transport for NSW, 2016a) (Feasibility Report). One of the key outcomes of the Feasibility Report was that:

'A core La Perouse to Kurnell ferry service could benefit from the establishment of supplementary water linkages to other locations in Botany Bay (e.g. at Brighton-Le-Sand's and near Sydney Airport) to create a wider network.'

The Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads, Ms Eleni Petinos (Secretary) responded to the Mayor by letter dated 4 November 2020 (**Attachment 5**), advising that NSW Government has no plans for new public ferry wharves or provision of public ferry services at Brighton Le Sands or Sans Souci, for either commuter or tourist services.

The Secretary also referred to Transport for NSW's South East Sydney Transport Strategy and suggested Council prepare a proposal for Transport for NSW to consider as part of its future planning for public transport improvements in Southern and South East Sydney.

On 8th July 2020, Council endorsed a further Mayoral Minute (**Attachment 6**) and resolved:

1 That Council reaffirms its support for an extension to the proposed La Perouse to Kurnell ferry service for wharves at Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.

2 That Council writes to major business operators along the Lady Robinsons Beach foreshore to gain further support for the proposed extension of the ferry route.

3 That Council explores the options for a feasibility study and business plan to extend the planned ferry route between La Perouse and Kurnell to Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.

In accordance with Council's resolution, the Mayor wrote to local business owners in Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci in July 2020 seeking support for ferry wharves at Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci. Council staff also began investigations to fund a feasibility study, however, such a study was found to be prohibitive at this time.

Council reiterates its request for the scope of the Project to be extended to include the provision of wharves at Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.

Public exhibition

Council staff have undertaken a review of the exhibited documents and provide the following feedback for the DPIEs consideration:

- **Environmental Impact Statement**

Public Transport

Council requests that the Project include consideration of the following:

- *Bus service interchange*

It is expected the ferry terminal will serve as a major destination and as such should be accessible by the major bus routes in the South East with a provision to 'interchange' to these wharves. The recent South East Sydney Bus Network changes propose to remove a number of existing bus services from La Perouse, and instead relocating these to terminate at Little Bay. It would be expected that a lack of a direct public transport (bus) transfer and the subsequent increase in visitors to the area would then impose a burden to car parking in the surrounding area. Bayside Council request that consideration is given to provide a bus transfer facility in conjunction with these wharves.

Council also supports the inclusion of smart, live public transport information and services that integrate into the existing bus network.

- *Provide Principal Bicycle Network (PBN) and walking infrastructure to connect to the existing Botany Bay active transport network.*

Active transport accessibility to the wharves should be an important consideration and promoted as an efficient and safe method for our community to utilise the wharves and destinations on the other side of Botany Bay.

Bayside Council request TfNSW to consider infrastructure detailed in the Principal Bicycle Network (PBN) to be implemented alongside the Kamay Ferry Wharves to enable safe pedestrian and bicycle access from the surrounding suburbs.

There is currently a missing link from La Perouse/Yarra Bay to Botany's nearby Sir Joseph Bank Park, a major regional greenspace and active transport corridor. TfNSW, in collaboration with Bayside and Randwick Councils have recently co-designed a strategic active transport corridor between these locations, and believe investigation of this off-road active transport corridor be delivered in conjunction with this project. This connection would serve to provide access to La Perouse wharves for the Botany/Mascot/Southern Sydney areas, but also complete the final link in the Botany Bay foreshore path network.

Council Meeting

10/06/2020

Item No	6.1
Subject	Mayoral Minute - Support for Bayside Ferry Service
File	SF19/9477

Motion

- 1 That Council strongly urges the NSW Minister for Transport to lobby for the return of the Brighton Le Sands Ferry service, connecting Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci with Kurnell, La Perouse.
 - 2 That Council seeks the support of all local State Members and Chambers of Commerce for this tourism initiative.
-

Mayoral Minute

The reintroduction of a ferry service between La Perouse and Kurnell is slowly gaining traction. Last October in the NSW Parliament, the Member for Cronulla, Attorney General Mark Speakman, spoke of a joint federal-state \$50 million upgrade of the Kurnell precinct of Kamay Botany Bay National Park. This upgrade includes new ferry wharves at Kurnell and La Perouse.

There is an opportunity to enhance the current Kurnell – La Perouse proposal with the reintroduction of a ferry service in Bayside. Previously, commencing in 1903, a pleasure steamer, the SS Erina, provided a weekend service between Brighton Le Sands, Kurnell and Sans Souci and made the occasional trip to La Perouse. It is time to bring back the Brighton-Le-Sands/Sans Souci ferry service for the Bayside community, connecting with La Perouse and Kurnell.

There is huge, untapped tourism potential in our local beachfront with family friendly swimming, a culturally inclusive environment, and a wide selection of quality cafes and restaurants.

Arrival by ferry will enhance the visitor experience, allowing for the enjoyment of magnificent views and enable a wider appreciation of the natural environment that sustained the local aboriginal community for thousands of years.

Leaving the car at home, there will be no need to find a parking space - reducing the impact of traffic congestion and carbon emissions on our environment.

The tourism industry has taken a huge hit in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. People are now looking for opportunities to visit local areas. With international tourism on hold – we can grow our local tourist population with a ‘staycation.’ Reintroducing this ferry service would join Sydney’s iconic fleet of ferries, showcasing beautiful Botany Bay – and Bayside would join the bucket list for trips in and around Sydney.

If the NSW Government is serious about an industry led recovery, and if they are serious about supporting tourism, they must support the return of the ferry service to Brighton-Le-Sands and Sans Souci, connecting La Perouse and Kurnell.



**From the
Office of the Mayor**
Councillor Joe Awada



Our ref: 20/143963
Our contact: Joe Awada 9562 1796

15 June 2020

The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Re: Brighton Le Sands Ferry Service

At the meeting of 10 June 2020, Bayside Councillors endorsed my Mayoral Minute calling on the NSW Minister for Transport to return the Brighton Le Sands Ferry service, connecting Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci with Kurnell and La Perouse.

Council believes this is an important tourism initiative, bringing visitors onto our local beachfront, to enjoy local cafes and restaurants in a family friendly, culturally inclusive environment.

In a post COVID-19 economy, and with international tourism on hold, there is an opportunity to promote our local areas, adding to the iconic Sydney ferry services, and providing more options for a Sydney 'staycation'.

To further this request, I am seeking a meeting with yourself, and the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Tourism, to discuss the benefits of this proposal in more detail.

For your information I have attached a copy of my Mayoral Minute. My office can be contacted on 9562 1796. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Joe Awada
Mayor



**From the
Office of the Mayor**
Councillor Joe Awada



Our ref: 20/144021
Our contact: Joe Awada 9562 1796

15 June 2020

The Hon Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for Tourism
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Re: Brighton Le Sands Ferry Service

At the meeting of 10 June 2020, Bayside Councillors endorsed my Mayoral Minute calling on the NSW Minister for Transport to return the Brighton Le Sands Ferry service, connecting Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci with Kurnell and La Perouse.

Council believes this is an important tourism initiative, bringing visitors onto our local beachfront, to enjoy local cafes and restaurants in a family friendly, culturally inclusive environment.

In a post COVID-19 economy, and with international tourism on hold, there is an opportunity to promote our local areas, adding to the iconic Sydney ferry services, and providing more options for a Sydney 'staycation'.

To further this request, I am seeking a meeting with yourself, and the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport, to discuss the benefits of this proposal in more detail.

For your information I have attached a copy of my Mayoral Minute. My office can be contacted on 9562 1796. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Joe Awada
Mayor



**From the
Office of the Mayor**
Councillor Joe Awada



Our ref: 20/172946
Contact: Joe Awada 9562 1796

7 July 2020

The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Re: Proposed extension of new Kamay ferry wharves – feasibility study

Further to my meeting request sent to you on 18 June 2020 (copy attached), regarding a proposal to extend the planned Kamay ferry wharves to include Brighton-Le-Sands and Sans Souci, I have sought further information to support Council's proposal.

The Feasibility Study 2016 Report for the Kamay ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell specifically supports the extension of the planned ferry route, stating that "A core La Perouse to Kurnell ferry service could benefit from the establishment of supplementary water linkages to other locations in Botany Bay (eg at Brighton-Le-Sands and near Sydney Airport) to create a wider network."

The report also notes the popularity of The Grand Parade and Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands with locals and tourists, with views, shops, restaurants and bars, public transport links and parking adding to the amenity of the location. Tourism is noted in the report as the main beneficiary of a new ferry service in this location.

The Kamay Wharves Project provides an opportunity for us to act now, to extend the planned route, to maximise benefits for our community and our businesses.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you further and anticipate hearing from your office in the near future. My office can be contacted on 9562 1796. Should you wish to contact me personally, please call 0438 223 600.

Yours sincerely

Joe Awada
Mayor

cc Steve Kamper MP
The Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Tourism
The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC, Minister for Small Business
The Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for the Environment



Ms Eleni Petinos MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads

Our Ref: 01104780
Your Ref: 20/221804

Councillor Joe Awada
Mayor
Bayside Council
mayor@bayside.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Awada

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Transport and Roads about the reinstatement of wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell, and public ferry wharves at Brighton Le Sands or San Souci. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you are aware, Transport for NSW is completing the planning, design, environmental assessment and preparation for the proposed reinstatement of the La Perouse and Kurnell wharves and associated infrastructure. The primary use of the wharves is to provide a ferry service for visitors to the area and the local community for cultural and recreational purposes.

Additionally, the wharf infrastructure would also be available for short-term use by non-ferry commercial vessel operators, such as whale-watching vessels, and will be available to community members, including recreational boat users and fishers.

Transport for NSW advises commuters are a potential secondary user of a ferry service, where they are not already well serviced through other existing public transport options, including the rail network, or where they prefer this mode of travel.

A key expected benefit from reinstating the wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell is to provide improved access and sense of arrival to both sides of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, particularly to the Kurnell precinct. New tourism services could be offered from the wharves, such as, waterborne tours, cruises and charters for activities such as, whale watching, fishing and cultural tourism.

Further, the wharves and associated ferry services would also provide the missing link for walking and cycling routes around Botany Bay and along the coastline, which is expected to draw visitors to the region.

I understand the Kamay Ferry Wharf project team gave a briefing of the project to Bayside Council on 1 July 2020 and met with the General Manager again on 7 July 2020. On both occasions, the project team responded to questions from council and heard council's position regarding extending the project scope to Brighton Le Sands and San Souci.

As previously advised, there are no plans for new public ferry wharves or provision of public ferry services at Brighton Le Sands or San Souci, for either commuter or tourist services.

However, Transport for NSW has recently released the *South East Sydney Transport Strategy*, which provides a blueprint for transforming the way people travel to, within and through South East Sydney, to 2056. The Strategy articulates *Future Transport 2056* at a regional level and sets out the medium and long term integrated transport and land use plan for South East Sydney from 2026 to 2056.

Council may wish to prepare a proposal for Transport for NSW to consider as part of its future planning for public transport improvements in Southern and South East Sydney.

More information about the Kamay Ferry Wharf project, including a fact sheet, can be found at roads-maritime.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/kamay-ferry-wharves/index.html.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



04/11/2020

Eleni Petinos MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads

Council Meeting

8/07/2020

Item No	6.1
Subject	Mayoral Minute - Feasibility Study for Proposed Ferry Service in Botany Bay
File	F08/559.002

Motion

- 1 That Council reaffirms its support for an extension to the proposed La Perouse to Kurnell ferry service for wharves at Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.
 - 2 That Council writes to major business operators along the Lady Robinsons Beach foreshore to gain further support for the proposed extension of the ferry route.
 - 3 That Council explores the options for a feasibility study and business plan to extend the planned ferry route between La Perouse and Kurnell to Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci.
-

Mayoral Minute

Since my last Mayoral Minute for the proposed extension of the planned ferry service between La Perouse and Kurnell, I have received positive feedback from local chambers of commerce and members of the community supporting Council's proposal.

I have written to the Minister for Transport and Roads and the Minister for Tourism seeking meetings to progress Council's proposal. I have also contacted the local member for Sutherland, the Hon Mark Speakman, and our local member for Rockdale, Steve Kamper, seeking their support.

To provide strength to the NSW Government's current proposal, a feasibility study looking into costs required for the construction of the ferry wharves and the economic benefits to our local community is required.

This study will ensure we are not left behind while the planned ferry service between La Perouse and Kurnell fires ahead. The NSW Government needs to understand that without the inclusion of Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci, their planned ferry route is a boat to nowhere.

Major business operators such as the Novotel Brighton Le Sands and The Grand Roxy would be major beneficiaries of the reintroduction of a ferry service, and I ask that Council also writes directly to smaller businesses along the foreshore to gain further support for the proposal.

Attachments

Nil