



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

File No: SF2012/006655/1, CR2012/002010
Your Ref: MP 11_0012
Matt Adams

The Director
Metropolitan & Regional Projects North
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Megan Fu

Department of Planning
Received
02 APR 2012
Scanning Room

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Exhibition of Environmental Assessment for Port Macquarie Base Hospital Expansion

I refer to your letter requesting comment and conditions of approval relation to the abovementioned major project application.

The key concern for Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) is the safety and efficiency of the state classified road network, in particular the Oxley Highway (HW11). The recent upgrade of the Oxley Hwy-Wrights Road roundabout is a significant public investment by RMS in improving the safety and efficiency of the state classified road network. The works have been completed to accommodate future growth in the Port Macquarie area and to ensure efficient network connectivity in the future.

RMS has undertaken a review of the exhibited Environmental Assessment and supports the proposed additional car parking capacity for the hospital and the provision of options to encourage alternative transport modes such as cycling and public transport.

Access to the subject site is considered to be constrained by existing development patterns in the surrounding area and at present is only provided via the Oxley Hwy-Wrights Road roundabout. In the absence of a secondary access to the hospital site, vehicle movements associated with the construction phase of the proposed redevelopment should be restricted during peak periods to minimise traffic impacts upon the Oxley Hwy-Wrights Road- roundabout.

The 'Traffic & Parking Report' prepared by Taylor Thomas Whiting (TTW) has concluded that *'the existing road system and access arrangements operate at good level of service and will continue to operate at a similar level of service after the redevelopment of the hospital is complete...provision of a second access to the hospital campus could be considered as part of the future redevelopment proposal'*.

RMS does not support the conclusions of this report as it has not adequately considered the potential cumulative traffic impacts of this redevelopment and the provision of access options for any necessary future redevelopments of the hospital site.

Roads & Maritime Services

It is noted that the Sidra analysis provided in the TTW report has considered the newly constructed Wrights Road-Oxley Highway roundabout as partially complete and has not considered the additional traffic introduced by the opening of the Oxley Highway upgrade project or the potential growth of future traffic volumes resulting from urban development in Thrumster and Sancrox areas to the west.

RMS recommends that a secondary access connection to Lake Road, via Toorak Circuit, be investigated and that appropriate arrangements be undertaken to secure this option under the current proposal. In the absence of a secondary access the future potential for subsequent hospital redevelopments will be constrained and may require further costly upgrades of the Oxley Hwy-Wrights Rd roundabout, which will result in adverse impacts upon the state road during construction. This should be avoided where possible by effectively accommodating for future growth options under the current proposal.

Should you have any further enquiries regarding the above comments please do not hesitate to contact Matt Adams of RMS Development Northern on 6640 1344 or via email at: development.northern@rms.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully,

30 MAR 2012



David Bell
Regional Manager, Northern Region