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[REDACTED] 25 April 2020 11:19 AM [REDACTED]

#### **Upgrade to Fort Street School- SSDA SSD 10340**

As a resident of Millers Point, I write to express our significant concerns about a particular safety aspect of the planned upgrade to Fort Street Public School. I am extremely worried about the safety of people walking to or from work, tourists, and residents, especially children, as a result of the planned diversion of cycle traffic from the current cycle path from the Harbour Bridge to the Kent Street underpass. I note that the current cycle route will be closed from the commencement of construction until some months after the school is completed.

The current plans propose to divert approximately 2,000 bicycles a day during the week from this route down Watson Road, Argyle Street and Kent Street and 1,000 a day at weekends. This diversion will be in place for the duration of the build and then for an unconfirmed period when the school is completed to upgrade the cycleway. I estimate that up to 1,000 of these will travel this route Monday to Friday during the morning peak. This will conflict not only with morning traffic, but with parents dropping off kids at the school and local residents and workers once the school is completed.

Kent Street has cars parked on both sides of the road most weekdays with one lane in each direction plus parking, principally for residents. There are also a number of pedestrian and vehicle crossings to stop the traffic flow, so increasing the hazard level. Not only will the streets become clogged, but based

on current experience, bikes will move to the footpaths to avoid this traffic and move faster. Adult cyclists already race along the footpath when Kent St is clogged. The trend to motorised bikes makes this more dangerous.

Cars exiting Observatory Tower, The Georgia, and Highgate would be unable to see a speeding bike quickly enough to stop. Other Kent Street buildings that may be concerned about the risk include the Langham Hotel, the fire station and retail outlets. Finally, I am very concerned re the risk to children being dropped off and picked up if the cycleway is not kept well away from these points going forward.

Apart from the risk to pedestrians, I believe this situation will be extremely difficult to police effectively. In addition, there are likely to be altercations between pedestrians and bikes. Not only is this dangerous, it impacts our harmonious neighbourhood.

I believe there are alternatives that would help solve this problem. I, like you, are keen to avoid major traffic snarls, major discontent, injury and possibly even deaths.

I understand that the Traffic Committee of the Millers Point Community Residents Action Group is already investigating alternative solutions to resolving this specific issue. I ask that you arrange to meet with them urgently to develop an acceptable solution before progressing further.

I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely

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