

Ref: 17/083

28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Cardno  
PO Box 19  
ST LEONARDS NSW 1590

Attention: John O'Grady

Dear John,

**RE: Removal of Second Access to Nelson Bay Road, Fern Bay – Fern Bay Estate – Response to Transport for NSW submission.**

As requested the following submission from Transport for NSW regarding the proposed modification to the Seaside Fern Bay Estate approval seeking removal of the requirement for a second access to Nelson Bay Road has been reviewed.

*"Dear Ms Flanagan*

*Thank you for providing the opportunity for Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to comment on the above modification of development (MOD). The removal of the second access road from Seaside Boulevard to Nelson Bay Road will have significant consequences on future public transport services in the precinct. The proposed modification will compromise the ability to provide a direct and efficient service, resulting in both poor customer experience and decreased efficiency. Additionally, the modification will result in additional vehicle kilometres of travel for other residents and other road users. Given, the importance of encouraging effective bus services to this development, TfNSW does not support the proposed modification."*

The following advice is provided in response to this submission;

The Seaside Fern Bay Estate is currently serviced by a public transport (bus) service operated by Hunter Valley Buses (Route 136) which provides a service between Stockton and Raymond Terrace. Connection to the Newcastle CBD is then provided by Newcastle Ferries. The bus route map for this service is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Currently the bus service route runs along Seaside Boulevard and picks up / drops off passengers at a bus stop on the northern side of Seaside Boulevard west of the Seaside Boulevard / Ironbark Drive roundabout before doing a U-turn at the roundabout and heading back to Nelson Bay Road. The bus stop is therefore within 1 km of all lots within the Fern Bay Estate. This service runs generally half hourly services Monday to Friday one of which is a short service from Fern Bay to Stockton only. On weekends the service is an hourly service along the long route only from Raymond Terrace to Stockton.

Hunter Valley Buses is currently proposing to extend the school bus services further into the estate to service a new bus shelter on Seaside Boulevard near Jabiru Drive. This will require the bus looping back to Seaside Boulevard along Jabiru Drive which has been assessed as suitable for bus traffic. This ensures all lots within Seaside Fern Bay Estate will be within 700 metres of a bus service.

Having discussed this with Hunter Valley Buses' Mr. John Meldrum the reality of the removal of the second access to Nelson Bay Road in regard to public transport will be;

1. The estate will continue to be serviced by public transport (buses) operated by Hunter Valley Buses.
2. It is likely that the long service to Raymond Terrace via Medowie will be lost however the short service to Stockton will be able to be extended further into the estate.
3. The frequency of bus services to the estate will be reduced from half hourly to hourly on weekdays while there would be some uncertainty as to the feasibility of weekend services. However if there was a demand for such services then Hunter Valley Buses would provide a service as the road infrastructure within the estate is not a constraint to the provision of the service.
4. The public transport (bus) service would therefore most likely be restricted to a Fern Bay to Stockton service.

In considering these impacts it is considered that;

1. There is no constraint to the provision of a public transport service to the estate from the current and proposed internal road construction.
2. The main constraint to the provision of public transport services in the estate is actually the likely demand for the service. The provision of additional housing within the area would increase the likelihood of the demand reaching a suitable level for the provision of improved public transport services and this will be the case no matter whether a second access to Nelson Bay Road is constructed or not.
3. The provision of a short public transport service only from Fern Bay to Stockton is still considered suitable as it provides direct connection to Newcastle Buses and Ferries services as well as Sydney Trains and NSW Trains services thereby providing connection to all major, business, retail, entertainment, sporting, educational and medical facilities in the area.
4. The provision of a second access off Nelson Bay Road may not result in an improved public transport service to Fern Bay as it will only likely benefit the one service an hour for the Raymond Terrace to Stockton (long) service operated by Hunter Valley Buses. There is no guarantee it will result in additional services from Port Stephens Coach's as there is some reluctance for the bus operators to enter these small residential areas off the main transport arteries due to the increased travel times and travel lengths (i.e. travel costs) given the small demand currently existing for the services.
5. The improvements or additional public transport services that may result from a second access to Nelson Bay Road would not be considered sufficient to outweigh the negative road efficiency and safety impacts associated with the

provision of an additional intersection on a major arterial road i.e. Nelson Bay Road. The additional intersection results in additional vehicle conflict points i.e. possible traffic accident locations and could as a result reduce the efficiency of the state road network.

Overall I believe whilst the provision of a second access to the Seaside Fern Bay estate off Nelson Bay Road to the north of the existing Seaside Boulevard roundabout may provide opportunities for additional public transport services to the estate the estate could still be serviced by a suitable public transport service between Fern Bay and Stockton only if this access is not constructed. The frequency of this service is also more likely to be impacted by the demand generated for the service within the estate rather than by the existence of a second road connection to Nelson Bay Road to the estate. Further the limited opportunity for additional public transport services would not outweigh the road efficiency and safety impacts created through the provision of an additional intersection on the busy Nelson Bay Road.

Hoping this information is to your satisfaction. For further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 4936 6200 or 0423 324 188.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Garry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Garry

**Director  
Intersect Traffic**

## ***Attachment 1***

