



Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club
Founded 1902 • ABN 68 000 537 057

25th February 2021

To whom it may concern

Middle Harbour 16' Skiff Club (MH16'SC) is based on the eastern side of The Spit.

In principle we support the NSW government with their infrastructure planning in relation to the Beaches Link and associated works, as it will relieve the substantial congestion caused by the Spit Bridge and reduce traffic flows past our clubhouse. However, we are concerned about the impact on our sailors, particularly juniors, of the construction work required to complete this project, specifically the maritime arrangements related to the undersea tunnel under Upper Middle Harbour.

NSW has a very proud and globally-significant contribution to sailing historically, and we believe it has an equally-significant role to play in the future of the sport. That future can only be enhanced by government support to the likes of small community clubs, especially when they face significant adversity caused by government infrastructure improvements.

MH16'SC has a long-standing relationship with Northbridge Sailing Club dating back many years. The two clubs compete ferociously in on-water races but are very similar in ethos and cooperate wherever we can. We rely on each other for mutual assistance and are supportive of each other's aims.

Of particular concern to us regarding the impact of the construction activities, is that we conduct an on-going regatta series (the Sydney Harbour Championship) between ourselves and Northbridge, held every year across seven weekends during the summer sailing season. The competitors are our teenagers (typically 13-17 years old), in the Flying 11 class of dinghy: a critical segment of our community (being the transition between junior training sailing and full-scale adult sailing, and aspirational figures for the younger age groups). In these days of COVID restrictions and worries, dinghy sailing is a highly suitable sport for junior and teenage members of our community, as it is inherently outdoors, non-contact and largely socially-distanced. The sport encourages and rewards psychological resilience, a much-needed attribute in this Covid-19 affected period. For these kids, restricting their ability to sail may significantly affect our community's resilience in the face of Covid-19 restrictions and adversity.

The Sydney Harbour Championship provides a zonal competition that sits between in-house club racing and the high-level State and National championships. It is a highlight of the season for our sailors as they form friendly rivalries with Northbridge crews and have the experience of sailing under very different wind, wave and current conditions than our normal club sailing would entail. The experience of travelling to Northbridge, under the Spit Bridge and beside the steep hillsides of Upper Middle Harbour is adventurous and attractive to our young sailors.



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We understand that sailing to or from Northbridge for these events (whether our sailors are going to Northbridge, or theirs coming to our sailing waters) will be severely restricted during the period of construction of the Beaches Link tunnel, and the Northbridge sailing courses will be severely affected. If not decimated, by the maritime restrictions.

Overall, this would likely lead to the suspension of an inter-club regatta that we hold dear, and significantly harm the junior and youth sailors of both Northbridge Sailing Club and us. We strongly support Northbridge Sailing Club in their attempts to maintain their weekend sailing activities, and the longer-term future of the club in the face of the significant adversity that is likely to ensue from the Beaches Link construction disruption.

We therefore urge the NSW government to assist Northbridge Sailing Club in any way they can.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J Tinworth".

Peter J Tinworth
President