



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR

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In the care of the Augustinians

26 February 2021

TO: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Beaches Link Tunnel, Balgowlah Connection

Letter from the Parish Pastoral Council ("The Council") of the Catholic Community of North Harbour in support of the Submission from the St Cecilia's Catholic School Advisory Committee and related correspondence

The Parish Pastoral Council covers the Catholic community of Allambie, Allambie Heights, Balgowlah, Balgowlah Heights, Clontarf, parts of Beacon Hill, Brookvale, Manly Vale, North Balgowlah, North Manly and Seaforth.

This letter does not seek to address matters which are the subject of other communications from St Cecilia's but we draw attention to 2 major areas of concern and related issues:

A. Some important matters which do not appear to have been considered adequately in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) The EIS does not acknowledge the existence of **St Cecilia's School**, a place of education, which occupies a dual site with St Cecilia's Church, a place of worship, bounded by Seaview Street, White Street and Wanganella Street.
- 2) This omission is highlighted in the Northern Beaches Council Submission where specific mention is made of project traffic impact on local government primary and secondary schools but no mention of either **St Cecilia's School** or **St Kieran's School** (Manly Vale) which are located in the general project area. St Cecilia's School is around 220 metres southeast of the proposed link road and in close proximity to the tunnel ventilation outlet. While St Kieran's School is further away, it is not far from Manly Vale Public School and Mackellar Girls High School, both of which are listed in project documentation.

B. The anticipated impact on the operation of St Cecilia's School and St Cecilia's Church

While we anticipate that the NSW Government Authority responsible for the project and the Northern Beaches Council will make every effort to minimize inconvenience to the local community during the lengthy construction phase, we believe that the following matters deserve special attention:

- 1) **Air quality** – Both during the construction phase and after completion, air quality is likely to be a major issue, potentially reaching unsafe levels, depending on wind direction, and affecting both local residents and children. Appropriate monitoring of air quality is essential, particularly given the proximity of St Cecilia's School and St Cecilia's Church.
- 2) **Noise and Vibration Levels** – The welfare of students is also impacted by noise and vibration and high levels of the latter are anticipated during the construction phase. Again, this requires a proactive approach from the Authority.

- 3) **Traffic Congestion** – The traffic situation in the immediate area is already quite congested, despite current morning, peak-hour restrictions on vehicles turning into some local streets in the vicinity of St Cecilia's. Given anticipated restrictions on traffic using Sydney Road during the construction phase and the restricted use of some streets in the local area, it is likely that additional traffic will use local streets as 'rat-runs'.
- 4) **Traffic Congestion – Wanganella Street** – Of major concern is Wanganella Street which has parking on both sides of the road and space for 2-way traffic, though trucks and buses find some sections very narrow and difficult to negotiate. Depending on the extent of restricted access in local streets, Wanganella Street may become a major access road to Balgowlah Heights.
- 5) **Traffic Congestion – Other Streets** – Other streets bordering the school/church grounds – **White Street** and **Seaview Street** – face similar limitations to Wanganella Street in terms of traffic congestion and flow, particularly when used by buses and trucks. Seaview Street also lacks any traffic calming measures and a pedestrian crossing.
- 6) **Traffic Congestion - Impact on St Cecilia's School** - Traffic movements and parking in the immediate area of St Cecilia's School are already a major safety problem, especially before and after school. The safety of the children is paramount and we expect this to be addressed.
- 7) **Traffic Congestion - Impact on St Cecilia's Church** – While St Cecilia's Church receives limited use, it is expected that adequate street parking be available on days when religious services are held, especially funerals on weekdays and Mass on Sunday and Wednesday mornings.

In previous correspondence dated 23 November 2018, Parish Priest Fr Paul Maloney and Parish Pastoral Council Chair Mr Tim Wunder sought responses from the NSW Government Authority. We would appreciate updated information on the matters listed below, please:

- i. *The Parish Pastoral Council requests comment from the appropriate NSW Government Authority on the emission impact to the Church and school properties.*
- ii. *The Parish Pastoral Council requests details of traffic management plans including off street standby areas for trucks with engines off.*
- iii. *The Parish Pastoral Council requests details of forecast traffic volumes during and post construction on surrounding streets.*
- iv. *The Parish Pastoral Council requests details of the dust and noise management plan and the assessed impact on surrounding areas.*

The Parish Pastoral Council appreciates that some disruption and inconvenience will be experienced during the construction phase but we trust that every effort will be made to protect the health and safety of all concerned.

Thank you for considering the Council's concerns. We look forward to your responses.



Fr. David Austin OSA
Parish Priest



Tim Wunder
Co-Chairs of Parish Pastoral Council



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