

23 February 2021

Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Attention: Director, Transport Assessment

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Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission on Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection EIS Exhibition

On 16 December 2020 Council received a letter of notification from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) that the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) had been placed on public exhibition.

Mosman Council at its meeting on 2 February 2021 considered the exhibition of the EIS for the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection and resolved that:

1. Council provide in principle support for the Beaches Link Project.
2. The Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated December 2020, prepared by Transport for NSW be received and noted.
3. A Councillor workshop be arranged in February 2021 with TfNSW to discuss the relevant matters highlighted in this report and any other matters to allow Council to finalise its submission.
4. Council's submission in relation to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection EIS include the following:
 - a. A working Group to be established by TfNSW and include Mosman and North Sydney council with a view to including in the Beaches Link Project the revitalisation of the Spit-Military Roads Corridor to improve the corridor's function, amenity and accessibility as per the NSW Government's 'Movement and Place Framework' approach.
 - b. Adequate funding be provided in the Project Budget to fund all works in revitalising the Spit-Military Roads Corridor.
 - c. Details of the occupancy of Spit West Reserve be subject to a formal lease with Mosman Council and/or a Works on Council Property Application by TfNSW. TfNSW should seek to minimise any impacts as a result of this occupancy on adjoining stakeholders in the area.
5. Council seek support from North Sydney Council to establish the Working Group referred to in 4a above.
6. The General Manager be Delegated Authority to finalise the submission to TfNSW after the Councillor Workshop and finalise any details on a Working Group and potential occupancy of Spit West Reserve.

Mosman Council supports the Beaches Link Project in principle and understand that the project comprises a new underground motorway bypass of the Spit-Military Road and Warringah Road corridors. The proposed motorway tunnel will connect the Warringah Freeway at Cammeray and the Gore Hill Freeway at Artarmon to the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation at Balgowlah and Wakehurst Parkway at Seaforth. The project also includes a surface upgrade of Wakehurst Parkway from Seaforth to Frenches Forest and upgrade and integration works to connect to the Gore Hill Freeway and Reserve Road at Artarmon.

Following are the main items raised in this submission:

Spit-Military Roads Corridor Improvements

Though the Beaches Link project is supported, Council is concerned about the failure to identify opportunities to improve the "Place" function of Spit-Military Road corridor.

A commonly understood principle in road-based transport is that the construction of additional road capacity encourages a corresponding increase of road traffic until the level of driver convenience achieves a new equilibrium. The EIS model predicts that daily traffic volumes along the Military Road corridor will effectively return to the volumes of daily traffic we currently experience today. In practice, it is possible that this may occur by 2027 or sooner if insufficient intervention is made to motivate the desired volume of through-traffic to use the Beaches Link.

The Mosman Local Strategic Planning Statement (March 2020) identifies the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link as offering the opportunity to revitalise the Spit-Military Roads Corridor, to improve amenity for residents and businesses, reduce traffic congestion and facilitate greater access for cycling, walking and public transport. The LSPS includes the following planning priority and actions of relevance:

- Planning Priority 10: Reimagine the Spit-Military Roads Corridor to improve function, amenity and accessibility in response to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.
- Action 1: Advocate to the NSW Government that the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link must include measures that improve the amenity for the local community whilst still recognising the role the corridor plays in cross-regional journeys.
- Action 2: Collaborate with North Sydney Council, the NSW Government and the community in revitalising the Spit-Military Roads Corridor to improve function, amenity and accessibility considering the NSW Government's 'Movement and Place Framework' approach.

Council would like to take the Beaches Link project as an opportunity to revitalize the Spit-Military Roads corridor. It is requested that the Spit-Military Roads corridor improvements be included in the overall project proposal.

Funding for revitalization of Spit-Military Roads Corridor

It is requested that adequate funding be provided in the Beaches Link Project Budget to design and implement all works in revitalizing the Spit-Military Roads Corridor.

Establishment of a Working Group

It is requested that a Working Group be established between Mosman, North Sydney Council and TfNSW. The aim of this group would be to work with TfNSW to develop designs for Spit-Military Roads corridor and have them built and undertaken as part of the Beaches Link Project.

Occupation of Spit West Reserve & Construction Site Impacts

It is proposed to establish a construction support site at Spit West Reserve (known as BL9) for a period of approximately 4.5 years. The site would occupy a considerable portion of Council-managed reserve (4,500m²) and a large portion of adjacent maritime area (26,000m²) under the jurisdiction of TfNSW.

There are a number of implications associated with the occupation and operation of BL9. These implications are listed below:

- Potential safety and operational implications for Spit Road and Military Road, as a result of increased construction traffic and temporary Spit Bridge openings
- Potential noise impact on local businesses in The Spit area as a result of construction noise.
- Potential operational impact on Mosman Rowers Club
- The Spit West cycleway will be required to detour around the proposed site.
- Potential environmental consequences for the adjacent salt marsh
- Potential amenity impacts on Spit West Reserve
- BL9 configuration will conflict with organised sports in the area, including summer netball and winter soccer
- A number of Council assets will require restoration/rehabilitation, including Council's seawall, footpath, car park, affected trees and grassed area

Many of these implications have already been considered by TfNSW within the EIS, however, further consultation with Council is considered necessary to ensure that works can be carried out with minimal impact to the locality.

The concept of BL9 is generally supported and the above details should be clarified and resolved prior to any occupancy arrangement and lease of the area. Details of the occupancy of Spit West Reserve will be subject to a formal lease with Mosman Council.

Mosman Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Beaches Link and Core Gill Freeway Connection. If you have any further questions, please contact Council's Senior Traffic Engineer, Sam Sathanesan on 9978 4022.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Johnson
GENERAL MANAGER