



Seaforth Football Club

Submission to NSW Government Response to Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection Environmental Impact Statement

25 February 2021

ABN: 97 954 498 828



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INTRODUCTION

This document has been provided by Seaforth FC to the NSW Roads and Maritime Service and the NSW Government as part of the department's process of obtaining community feedback during 2021 to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued in December 2020.

This document also re-states major concerns raised by the club to NSW Roads and Maritime Service in our previous submission "Seaforth FC Response to NSW Government, Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link Project: 2017 Community Consultation Phase" made in July 2017.

Club Contact Information

Please address all questions and contacts to:

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Club Website

Further information about the club can be found on the club website .. www.seaforthfc.com

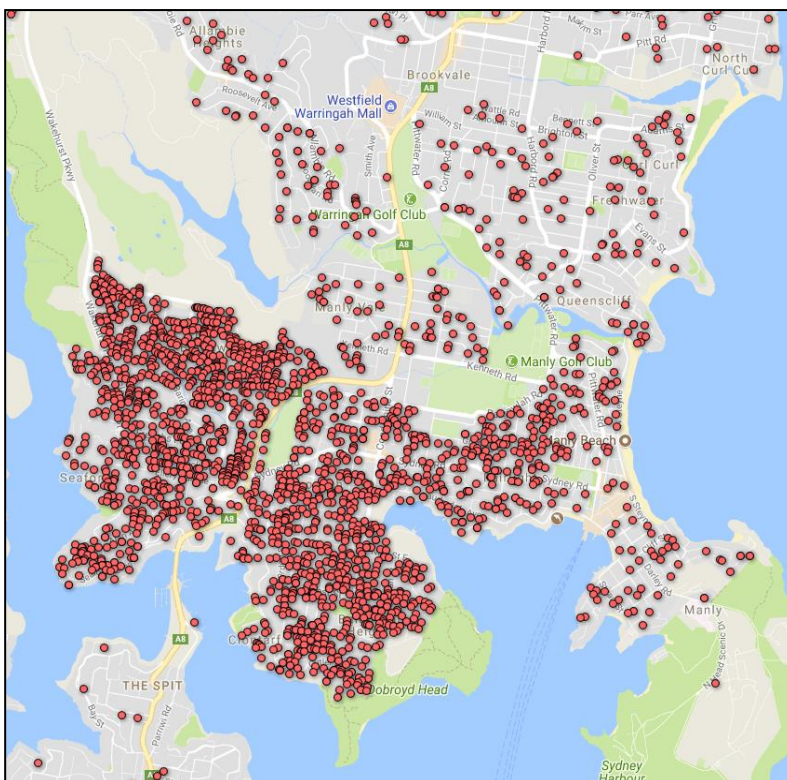
SEAFORTH FC TODAY

The club at a glance

Seaforth FC is a not for profit, community-based football club located at Seaforth Oval on the Wakehurst Parkway in Seaforth, Sydney.

Following are some facts about Seaforth Football Club ..

- We are the largest football club on the Northern Beaches
- In 2020 the club had 1,550 members and a direct reach of 3,000 adults
- We have 115 teams with our Junior (U6-U11) and Youth (U12-U18) players drawn from 20+ High Schools and 25+ Primary Schools
- Over the last 5 years the club has had 3,000 members which would translate into a direct reach of approximately 6,000 adults
- The club was formed in 1964 and is 57 years old.
- Seaforth FC is part of the Manly Warringah Football Association, which includes 17 clubs from the northern beaches peninsular and Mosman.
- Our grounds, clubhouse and field lighting facilities are owned by the Northern Beaches Council.



This map shows where our members were drawn from over the years 2013-2017

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Following are the matters from the EIS that Seaforth FC would like to see addressed:

1. **Air Quality.** Seaforth F.C. does not support the proposal that all exhaust fume ventilation shafts which are part of the tunnel infrastructure will be unfiltered. Our members are deeply concerned about the potential for air quality related health impacts due to the proximity of the exhaust fume ventilation shafts to our two major training grounds where high intensity physical activity occurs.

The exhaust fumes are the source of particulate matter (PM) air pollution which forms in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of chemicals such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which are pollutants emitted from automobiles. ¹

Contrary to the position taken by the RMS, there is an abundance of independent well-respected scholarly evidence available in the public domain to support the position that short-term exposure to particulate matter (PM) air pollution contributes to acute cardiovascular morbidity and mortality and that exposure to elevated PM levels over the long term can reduce life expectancy by a few years. ²

It follows then that members of the public living in Seaforth and Balgowlah who will potentially be affected by the PM air pollution are totally justified in having serious concerns about the long-term health impacts they may suffer. Seaforth FC shares this view absolutely and also has serious concerns for the health and well-being of our current and future members and their families who live in these areas.

- It is our unequivocal view is that all tunnel exhaust fume ventilation shafts should be filtered.
- Filtered or unfiltered, Seaforth FC would like to see permanent air quality monitoring stations established at Seaforth Oval and at Balgowlah Oval, with the data publicly available through regular reporting.

2. **Truck Movements around Seaforth Oval.** Seaforth Oval is a high-volume local community sporting hub. Each week during football season approximately 3,500 players, parents and spectators enter and exit Seaforth oval. Their safety on Wakehurst Parkway and in the adjoining streets while walking, driving and parking must not be impacted in any way by heavy truck movements around Seaforth Oval. The EIS (Chapter 8, page 55) does state that there will be no heavy truck movements southbound past Seaforth Oval from the Wakehurst Parkway East

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics>.

² Particulate Matter Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease: An Update to the Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0b013e3181d8ece1. May 2010.

Worksite. However, it is not clear from the EIS if there will be any heavy truck movements from other sources travelling either north or south past Seaforth Oval on the Wakehurst Parkway.

- Seaforth FC would like to see a statement from the department that clearly defines the level of expected heavy truck movements travelling past Seaforth Oval.

3. **Parking around Seaforth Oval.** Seaforth FC is very concerned about the likely loss of parking in our parking areas that will happen throughout construction due to tunnel construction staff choosing to park in the Seaforth Oval car parks and in surrounding local streets. We are also concerned that the flow-on effects of that will cause extra parking congestion for local residents.

Seaforth FC utilises three different areas for parking providing approximately 270 car spaces. These are:

- a paved and curbed car park of 80 spaces (but always overfilled to approximately 100 cars);
- an unpaved, uncurbed car parking area of 93 spaces (but always overfilled to approx. 100 cars);
- and the club estimates that at any one time on busy Saturday mornings due to activities at Seaforth Oval there are approximately 75+ extra cars parked in the local streets.

The available parking areas as is do not provide enough parking and each of the three areas has significant problems. There are large numbers of illegally parked cars in the paved car park each weekend, impeding smooth traffic flow. The unpaved car parking area is poorly laid out and traffic is regularly grid-locked in there. Each of these two areas only has a single entry and egress road and in both cases these roads become bottlenecks and grid-lock often occurs.

Below are photos demonstrating what the car parking areas are like every weekend.



Lower car park gridlock



Lower car park full



Upper car park illegal parking

- Seaforth FC is seeking a commitment from the RMS that they will implement effective alternative car parking locations and systems to prevent any use of the Seaforth Oval car parking areas by construction staff.
- Seaforth FC requests that the RMS provides us with a liaison officer with whom we can quickly raise and resolve any parking issues where we believe tunnel construction staff are involved.

Our observations about the alternative car parking locations and systems are:

- Alternative parking areas for construction staff should be located as far away from Seaforth Oval as possible. The road reserve areas to the north of the proposed tunnel entrance, which will eventually be cleared to form extra road lanes, would seem to be a viable option.
- We do not support the implementation of time limits for parking in local streets. We believe this would inconvenience local residents and policing this would be inadequate and inconsistent and not result in an effective deterrent for construction staff.
- Ideally all vehicles associated with tunnel staff should be identifiable in some way.