

**Cammeraygal High School P&C submission**  
**Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection EIS**  
**28 February 2021**

Cammeraygal High School is a growing school that was established in 2015. It has 2 campuses, 900m apart. The middle school campus is on the Pacific Highway in Crows Nest and the senior campus is in West Street. A total of approximately 800 students are currently enrolled in the school.

The school has a very active and supportive P&C with 7 committees. All P&C Committees are made up of parent volunteers, with the convener being elected at the P&C AGM. The committees include Communications, Environment, Music, Social, Sport, Uniform and Wellbeing. Please refer to the P&C website - <https://cammeraygalpandc.org.au/> for further information

The Environment Committee has been very active in examining the BL and GHFC EIS and have asked volunteer parents to summarise chapters so the EIS was accessible for parents and easy reference made to areas of concern (objections) to be included in this submission. The major focus of this submission centres on the health and safety of Cammeraygal High School students.

Cammeraygal P&C has come together with 13 other local primary and high schools, public and private to write to the Minister for Planning and Open Spaces to request an extension to the EIS submission date. This was denied. Please refer to the request for an extension letter attached which outlines why an extension request was sought. We have come together with other schools as The Western Harbour and Beaches Link program of works cuts through the largest school corridor in Sydney with 500-1000 pupils at approximately 26 schools.

We consider that Cammeraygal High School is highly impacted by the construction of the BL and GH connection project. Coupled with the cumulative impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade (2021 – 2026) and then the BL (2023-2028), our school zone with its students, teachers and parents will be exposed to construction impacts of these joint major infrastructure projects for at least 8 years. Cammeraygal High School's catchment falls within the major works of the BL and GH connection.

**Unacceptable impacts for Cammeraygal HS and what we are objecting to:**

- **Air pollution** - Most schools around North Sydney, Crows Nest and Cammeray receive higher doses of pollution of some form as a result of the project. The conclusion that there is no net increase in pollution does not adequately recognise that sensitive receivers will be worse off and assumes that surface traffic will not substantially increase. This has been contradicted by North Sydney Council traffic planners due to the widespread limitation on access points to the Warringah Freeway.
- **Particulate Matter** – This is already higher than what is recommended or considered “safe”. PM2.5 and PM10 levels are already above the guidelines for both the 24-hour average and the annual average (including the 2025 goal set by NEPC (2016)).
- **Growth of vehicle reliance** - It is clear that this project will grow vehicle reliance and traffic volumes overall in already congested and polluted areas. More work needs to be done to accurately model surface level changes as part of the project and an assessment of the project's contribution to air quality overall should be made on this basis.
- **Increased construction traffic** - A large number of vehicle movements and trucks will need to service the project (almost 5000 for Beaches link) to add to the thousands of daily movements on the roads from Cammeray, Crows Nest and North Sydney. There are also concerns about truck marshalling and worker parking locally.

- **Local long term traffic congestion** - The only access points to the Beaches Link are via Berry St North Sydney. North Sydney Council has expressed significant concern about the congestion impact on Berry St with traffic congestion as a result of the BL increasing on local streets near the school as more commuters will need to access the BL at Berry Street North Sydney.
- **Pedestrian safety** - Several local intersections and some bus routes will be negatively impacted both during construction and when operational. More construction traffic and school children walking across the routes is a safety risk.
- **Noise** – This will be a problem across the area with most of Cammeray/North Sydney impacted according to the EIS and many greenspace locations are specifically mentioned as being noise affected throughout the project. Already noise from the Warringah Freeway works will impact 1917 receiver buildings in Cammeray and North Sydney during the project. This will impact on human health and quality of life for our children and their families.
- **Contamination** - Our school community is exposed to widespread risks of contamination including along the Warringah Freeway and sports fields at Bicentennial and Flat Rock Reserve (also a major school route for many of our children), Cammeray Golf Course and smaller sites. These areas are both highly populated and well used for sporting and leisure activities however the risk assessment is incomplete and the EIS admits more testing is needed to assess the risk and establish mitigation measures.
- **Dust risks** - 500m<sup>3</sup> of spoil is permitted under the EIS to be stored outside of sheds at Flat Rock and 4500m<sup>3</sup> at Cammeray - this presents a significant dust risk to students when playing sport in the area.
- **Assumptions made in the EIS** - The assumptions made behind the travel time savings are not justified in the EIS and the project team have confirmed that all savings quoted are based on future traffic growth not current levels of service.
- **Climate change** - With the ever increasing need to work towards a net carbon neutral/zero future it is incumbent on Government and others proposing infrastructure projects to ensure those projects minimise their impact on climate change.
- **Biodiversity and loss of greenspace** - At Cammeray Golf Club greenspace will be lost to make way for permanent utility sheds for the Beaches Link. At Flat Rock Gully 390 trees will be removed for the dive site. There is no guarantee that the bushland will be reinstated, yet it is home to over 100 species of animals (including the powerful owl) and is a major wildlife corridor.
- **Environmental impacts** - Waterways, reserves, flora and fauna will be impacted. Our urban bushland is fast disappearing. For the future of our urban environment, we can not afford to put construction sites, with all their impacts, in biodiversity rich areas.
- **Communication** - Cammeraygal High School P&C has not been consulted as stakeholders about the project and impacts on its students.

#### **Cammeraygal High School P&C objects to the project overall until**

- There is a more accurate assessment of surface traffic impacts and a reassessment of the pollution impact of the project based on local background monitoring and reassessed surface level traffic modelling- not only the stack contribution
- There is a public transport (mass transit) alternatives assessment to compare a toll tunnel solution to a public transport solution across all levels of the project ie) congestion, noise, air pollution, climate etc
- The business case/ travel time modelling is released to substantiate the benefits of the project given the high level of risk and impact covered by the EIS. Provides data to substantiate the travel time savings quoted, re-assesses the local traffic impacts (as per North Sydney Councils concerns) and more fully addresses costs.
- A Phase 2 contamination study and all testing results is released to the public (widespread contamination is identified but underassessed)

- There are additional methods for reducing vehicle pollution ie) treatment/ Filtration of tunnel emissions, incentives for EV drivers, pollution absorbing materials, better fuel standards, trucks to use pollution devices etc
- All ventilation stacks have operational filtering systems as is best practice across all OECD countries for tunnels of this length
- There are infrastructure and procedures to ensure the safe passage of children to and from school ie) additional crossings, over/under passes, marshals etc
- Trucks are not to be allowed to marshal in local streets under any circumstances
- Worker parking to be provided onsite and not to be permitted in school zones
- Trucks fitted with noise and pollution control devices given the highly residential nature of the route and the large proportion of children
- Real time/ Alert Style Air Quality Monitors are included at Bicentennial Reserve and Cammeray oval to alert the community to air quality risks born from dust, disturbance or diesel
- Loud and dust risk laden construction work to be limited on Saturday mornings to allow for school sport or the provision of alternative sporting fields
- Spoil not to be permitted outside of sheds under any circumstances. Contaminated spoil not to be stored onsite in Flat Rock Gully or Cammeray. The spoil should immediately be sealed and carried away from residential areas or stored underground
- Utility shed at Cammeray Golf Club to be placed underground so that there is no loss of greenspace
- At the end of construction - the number of trees removed returned to the area not offset, healthy green space returned to the community.
- The tunnel design to be changed to incorporate a dedicated public transport corridor
- The entire project is certified carbon neutral during construction and operation
- Consultation with key groups including school P&Cs for regular consultation throughout the project in relation to impacts on school students and mitigation measures.