



Objection to the Beaches Link EIS

Quality of the built environment in North Sydney CBD

Objection: Bay Precinct objects to the adverse impacts on the built environment, pedestrian safety and sustainable transport that would result from worsening traffic in the North Sydney CBD, and which would be a consequence of the proposed design.

Problem:

Reliance on Berry Street for access into the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link Tunnels. Berry Street is an important CBD street in North Sydney. Prior to the advent of the Tunnels project, plans were being developed to improve the CBD including to make the street two-way. Berry Street is also the location of the new Victoria Cross Metro Station. North Sydney is one of the most important CBDs in Australia. Pedestrian amenity and sustainable transport should be paramount in this setting.

Result:

Reliance on Berry Street for access into the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link Tunnel has the effect of characterising this street as major traffic artery in the heart of the CBD. This project has the result of diminishing the quality of the public domain and the built environment in North Sydney:

- Increased private motor vehicle traffic in North Sydney CBD and Miller Street.
- Loss of street parking which serves an important function by shielding pedestrians.
- Longer pedestrian crossings at CBD intersection through lost pedestrian blisters.
- Increased pressure to set traffic light phases to favour traffic over pedestrians and cyclists.
- Increased pressure on intermodal public transport function of North Sydney, particularly buses.
- Permanent loss of opportunities to improve the public domain, such as the potential to return Berry Street to two-way.

Recommendation:

Modify the design, possibly including the position of portals to protect amenity and sustainable transport in North Sydney. The absolute performance measure for the design should be improvement of the built environment; reduction of surface traffic in North Sydney; improved amenity; and improved sustainable transport function.

Conditions of approval:

1. Undertake a review of the traffic design of the Beaches Link project seeking modifications which would protect and improve the built environment in North Sydney.
2. Following the above review, undertake an urban design investigation for North Sydney CBD to improve amenity in the public domain through projects such as: footpath widening; upgrades and other public domain improvements.

Paul Walter

Director - Atlas Urban Design & Strategy



Chair - Australian Institute of Architects (NSW), Built Environment Committee
Chair - Bay Precinct Committee



Aust: + 61 417 141 566

Aust: + 61 2 8031 7772

PNG: + 675 7191 3500

www.atlasurban.com

1/136 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest 2065 NSW, AUSTRALIA