

Cammeray Public School Parents and Citizens Association  
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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP  
Willoughby Road,  
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Dear Premier

I write on behalf of the Cammeray Public School Parents and Citizen Association (CPS P&C) regarding the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link and associated works in our area. Our school community is growing increasingly concerned about the detrimental impact these projects will have on our students, families and the broader community.

In recent months, the CPS P&C has fielded many queries related to these proposed projects. In response to these, the P&C Committee undertook a review of the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection and the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade Scoping Reports (RMS website; October 2017), as well as associated documentation, to ascertain the risks and concerns specific to our school community.

As you are aware, our school catchment area covers a wide-span that includes Cammeray and Naremburn, as well as many families residing in Crows Nest, Northbridge, Artarmon and Willoughby. Our review encompassed both the school area itself and the impact to parents and children within our catchment zone. Based on its findings, the P&C Committee compiled a series of questions pertaining to the proposed tunnel projects.

The Committee kindly requests a formal, written response to these questions, which can be shared with our school community. We also invite you to address these matters at a future P&C meeting and welcome direct consultation from senior RMS project personnel and experts in the appropriate fields.

### **1. Traffic, parking and safety during and after construction**

- i. The proposed construction corridors are in residential areas. Will restrictions be placed on construction operating times and parking/movement of construction vehicles, or will this occur 24/7?
- ii. The Western Harbour Tunnel and Northern Beaches Tunnel Scoping Documents indicate that spoil sites will be placed in and around our school catchment area. Where will they be and how many truck movements will be made hourly from each spoil/ construction site? What will be their route?
- iii. During construction, how will traffic flows be managed given the likelihood of road closures and/or diversion through Cammeray, Northbridge and past the school? Will there be additional safety measures and parking/ drop off provisions for parents?
- iv. Children and families who live in Naremburn and Cammeray are forced, due to zoning, to cross several busy roads (i.e. Brook St and Miller St) to travel to and from school. How will safe passage of school children and families be guaranteed during construction?
- v. What plans are in place to resolve the commuter and parking issues created by the numerous high-density developments in the neighbouring suburbs, St Leonards and Crows Nest? How will the increased commuter traffic and parking needs be accommodated once the tunnels open?

## **2. Loss of Green Space and Amenity**

- i. Given the likely use of several local parklands (Flat Rock, Artarmon Oval, Cammeray Park), how will our students and community's need for clean, green space be accommodated during the five to six year life span of the projects?
- ii. Many sporting and community organisations use these green spaces. During and post construction, can this use continue, given the proximity to the proposed spoil sites and the related access, traffic and dust issues? Further, will Tunks Park, Cammeray Park, the Tennis Club and Artarmon Reserve be safe for our school sporting activities?
- iii. How will potentially toxic dust (silica and chemical contaminants) from construction, spoil and preparation activities be effectively controlled to ensure safety?
- iv. How will green spaces be rehabilitated following construction?
- v. Will land acquired for construction and spoil sites be returned to the community as green space?

## **3. Noise**

- i. Noise has been a key issue for WestConnex and NorthConnex residents. How will noise from construction, trucks and preparations sites be managed and effectively monitored, given the topology of the foreshore area which traps and echoes sound?
- ii. Will blasting be used for tunnel construction? If so, where and when?
- iii. Please detail the consequence on contractors where noise pollution controls are broken. Will trucks be allowed to idle in residential streets or near the school?
- iv. Please explain why alternate (less residential) construction corridors have not been considered, so that sleep of residents is protected.
- v. How will children and families be supported to cope with the stress of significant noise pollution?

## **4. Water and Land Contamination**

- i. There is a significant potential for disturbing toxic materials in the neighbourhood such as asbestos and chemical leachate which may affect the health and safety of our families. Other communities have experienced unbearable odour issues coming from a disturbed tip site. Have the risks associated with running the construction corridor through the old tip site at Naremburn been assessed? How will these risks be mitigated?
- ii. How will potentially toxic dust from construction be managed to ensure schools, homes, personal items, sporting groups and travel corridors (i.e. our school children) are not impacted from the transport and storage of spoil throughout residential areas?
- iii. Will a detailed environmental assessment of the Flat Rock Creek watercourse and surrounding environment be conducted, accounting for the area's high level of community use, E2 conservation status, history, and its links to many recreational areas, including Artarmon Reserve, Bicentennial Reserve, Halstrom Park and Tunks Park?
- iv. If Cammeray Golf Course (and surrounds) is to be used for spoil and preparation, what protections will be put in place to protect sensitive historical and botanical environs downstream? Will Cammeray Park and the Tennis Club be safe for our children to use due to dust and heavy vehicle traffic issues?
- v. How will flood risk be managed given the disruption to several watercourses which run down to foreshore areas?
- vi. If dredging occurs at Clive Park, our waterways, including Middle Harbour and Northbridge Baths, will be contaminated. What is the period of works? Will toxic spoil be dried out and transported through residential areas? How long will the rehabilitation of the park and waterways take before they can be used again?

## **5. Air Pollution and Health Risks**

- i. The World Health Organisation advises that there are significant health impacts associated with pollution, particularly to children. There are no air quality monitoring stations on the Lower North Shore and very few in high traffic/high density residential areas across Sydney – when and how will baseline data for our area be made publicly available? Can we be provided with data from the Rhodes Ave, Naremburn site?
- ii. Given the increase in traffic near the school, can an ambient air quality monitor be installed immediately, with real time data publicly available, so that our higher risk children (70+) and families (i.e. asthma, allergies, chronic illness) can receive timely alerts enabling health to be managed during periods of high pollution?
- iii. What controls will be placed on high polluting vehicles using the tunnel, particularly where vehicles meet delayed traffic conditions as they approach the Cammeray interchange?
- iv. How will the bottlenecks on the Bridge and Harbour Tunnel be managed to reduce pollution?
- v. How will toxic dust be managed, monitored and controlled in the area?

## **6. Stacks and Pollution Dispersion**

- i. How will the plumes areas from three new and two existing stacks (Harbour Bridge and Artarmon) in the area intersect and impact ambient air pollution levels? Can air already contaminated by other stacks in close range achieve a safe level of dispersion?
- ii. Cammeray Public School sits at a relatively high altitude in comparison to other buildings and would potentially sit near (within the 800mtrs to 2km zone) and to the North and East of five stacks. This may put CPS at greater risk due to the height and position of its building. How will the height and position of Cammeray Public School be taken into consideration in the design and placement of stacks to ensure the health and safety of children (i.e. how will the risk of downwash be managed)?
- iii. Can you please provide health data which confirms the safety of residential communities living within the plume dispersion area of unfiltered stacks, particularly for areas with multiple stacks?
- iv. Please provide the science behind the response to community concern that the cost of filtering stacks out ways the cost of caring for the community's health i.e. the damage cost?

## **7. Damage and Loss of Property in our Heritage and Conservation Areas**

- i. Damage and loss of property, along with uncertainty, may present both an emotional and safety risks to our students and families. What groundwork has been done in the Naremburn and Cammeray construction zones to prove the stability of the area suitable for heavy groundworks?
- ii. A loss of heritage represents loss to education and community. How will Heritage homes, buildings and sites be protected, given that many are close to the Warringah Expressway which is due to be widened or directly above tunnelling and near heavy vehicle movements?
- iii. The construction corridor impacts four conservation areas. Some of the oldest buildings and locations on the North Shore exist in the area i.e. Central Township, Tarella, Henry Lawsons Cave. How will our heritage be protected for future generations?
- vii. What compensation will be available to residents/ our families who experience property damage as a result of construction work and heavy vehicle movements?
- iv. Where and when will acquisitions take place in the area? Will the government compensate appropriately? What is the process? Will substrate acquisition occur?
- v. Have assessors consulted with local Aboriginal, Conservation and Bush Care Groups as many sites in Flat Rock and our foreshore areas are not listed on scoping maps?
- vi. Have other less historically and environmentally sensitive areas been considered for construction and staging sites?

## **8. Devaluation of Property**

- i. We have been advised that property prices will be (and have been) impacted throughout the area. Will the government compensate for the financial impact to our parents?
- ii. Will the RMS purchase the land underneath residential properties and compensate owners appropriately?

## **9. Community Dissatisfaction with Consultation**

- i. Lower North Shore Suburbs such as Cammeray, and in particular Naremburn, are barely mentioned in the scope in terms of impacts, history, culture etc. Will subsequent documents adequately review the impact to our area?
- ii. The Cammeray Public School Community has been poorly consulted on this project. During our one consultation session, the RMS sent a communications representative, with no technical or decision-making support. Our community was wrongly informed that spoil would not be transported through residential areas in our catchment; this is contra to the scoping documents and subsequent consultation in other locations.

## **10. Poor Cost/Benefit**

- i. The project cost far out ways any benefits for the CPS community and surrounding suburbs. There is no apparent benefit to our community, however we are being asked to bare significant cost as outlined above. Whilst we recognise the need to provide a solution to congestion on the Northern Beaches and Mosman, why has the Mosman / Spit corridor been ruled out given that that route would share the burden of cost with residents who stand to benefit?
- ii. It does not appear that a train line was considered as part of the strategic review. Can you provide a business case that shows a road tunnel is preferable to a train line to the Northern Beaches?

Thank you for considering these many and varied issues which concern the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

The Cammeray Public School community would appreciate your urgent consideration of these matters and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Riseborough  
President  
Cammeray Public School P&C