



## MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 24 February 2020

### RE: Western Harbour Tunnel & Warringah Freeway Upgrade

I have received a request from Georgina Taylor, Registry Precinct; Brian Emanuel, Bay Precinct; and Ian Grey, Waverton Precinct, to urgently raise the issue of the release of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade.

This matter is considered urgent as it is the only Council meeting at which the matter can be actioned given the very tight deadline imposed by Transport NSW (RMS). The Public Exhibition period finishes on 12 March 2020.

The request stated the following:

*“As you are aware from the brief RMS pop up info sessions in North Sydney and Cammeray over the past 2 weeks, the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently on public exhibition until only 12 March 2020 reveals a multitude of impacts on Council assets and the residents, businesses and schools of the whole municipality, many unexpected.*

*A total period of 6 weeks has been provided from midnight 29 January 2020. The RMS section of Transport NSW has refused requests directly from the public to extend and the planning officer is unable to do so without direction by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (the Hon Rob Stokes MP) RMS has also refused to provide hard copies of the EIS sections relating to traffic, noise, air quality to affected schools or areas. despite this request being made to them by the Department of Planning on behalf of schools and residents Some of these appendices are 700 pages long and have important maps of pollution spread vibration and traffic forecasts.*

*Access to hard copies is only to single copies at North Sydney and Willoughby Councils and the Stanton and Chatswood Library is only online which is difficult as the details in the appendices need to be viewed or checked as you read the main chapter online. The computer resources and split screens are common in planners offices but not for Mums and Dads and residents at home at night and thus the process takes much longer. Given the form and size of the documents the time frame is clearly inadequate for any real community consultation. For example, the main chapters obviously focus on the benefit claims by the RMS for the project and the detail, such as the negative impacts on local intersection traffic, particularly on Miller and Falcon Streets, and for connectivity across the Municipality and the broader lower North Shore only become clear when the appendices are read. Only 4 public information sessions by RMS have been provided in the area 4 weeks before the end of submissions and the first time the large map of proposed construction effects along the Warringah Freeway have been seen by the public.*

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*The community through neighbourhood groups, schools and precincts are working through nearly 10,000 pages of the EIS and appendices.*

*The matter was considered at the Combined Precincts Committee meeting on 18 February 2020 where all precincts resolved to ask the council to write to the relevant Ministers to request an extension of time to 12 May 2020.”*

I understand that Council staff are writing to request an extension of the public exhibition period. Given how many residents will be affected by these works, I believe as Councillors we should support our residents and also write to request an extension of the exhibition period.

**I therefore recommend:**

**1. THAT** the Mayor and Council write to: the Hon Gladys Berejiklian, as Premier and local member for Willoughby, one of the most affected electorates; the Hon Rob Stokes as Minister for Planning and Open spaces with oversight of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process; and the Minister for Transport, the Hon Andrew Constance as Minister for the proponent agency, seeking an extension of the public exhibition period for the EIS for the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Warringah Freeway Upgrade by 2 months to 12 May 2020.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**