**NORTHERN BEACHES AND WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL**

The Northern Beaches and Western Harbour Tunnels is an issue, which dramatically affects the everyday lives of millions of people commuting into and around Sydney.  The only way forward if Sydney wants to be a ‘city of the future’, is to build rail transport (trains and metros).  Should this road tunnel ever be built, it will again be jam packed full of cars by the time it is completed.  The road congestion already created in and around Sydney is well documented and experienced.

It is essential that Councils and Residents **demand** a rail link to the Northern Beaches so that –

1.    there is no pollution (the health hazards of roadways have been well documented, including long term health impacts on school age children and loss of cognitive function)

2.    no negative effect on our urban corridor, eg. The Spit Bridge can then operate with a reasonable traffic flow

3.    no increased traffic on roads

4.    no loss of amenity

5.    no loss of tree canopy or parkland

The reasons FOR a rail link to the Northern Beaches are as follows:

·      Less excavated material to dispose of

·      Fast and reliable for commuters

·      Fits in with Opal Card

·      No pollution

·      No road tunnel blocked by overhead vehicles, vehicle breakdowns and accidents

·      No changes to local environments

·      Easy transport to Northern Beaches Hospital and Frenchs Forest commercial area

·      Rail generates far less continuous noise than main roadways

·      Tunnelling costs for a 2-track metro would be 1/3 the cost of two three lane road tunnels

·      A single metro can move 40,000 people per hour.  A road lane only moves 2,400 (when there is no congestion or delays).

In order to make this a livable city for the future, you have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make the correct long term decision and provide rail transport, as other progressive cities around the world have done.

The motion passed at the Combined Precincts Meeting held on May 22, 2018, Min. No. 481, overwhelmingly voted for North Sydney Council to continue with its 2017 position -:

THAT the Sustainable Transport Reference Group call again on the State Government to undertake a holistic traffic and transport plan for both the north shore and the northern beaches, **which includes consideration of the additional densities** which are a planned approach and that RAIL be undertaken **NOT a road tunnel.**

These precincts represent the voices of the communities on this very important issue.

The North Sydney Council has an **unequivocal responsibility** to act on this decision of the combined precinct meeting vote on May 22, 2018.   This was an overwhelming majority vote, which the Council cannot ignore.