

26 March 2020

Re: Letter first forwarded 19 March 2020

Ms Gladys Berejiklian MP  
Premier and Member for Willoughby  
Premier of NSW  
280 Willoughby Road  
Naremburn NSW 2065  
[willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

and

Ms Felicity Wilson MP  
Member for North Sydney  
Suite 3  
40 Yeo Street  
Neutral Bay NSW 2089  
[northshore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:northshore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

and

Mr Robert Stokes MP  
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces  
[pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

and

Mr Andrew Constance MP  
Minister for Transport and Roads  
[bega@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bega@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

cc/  
Secretary Jim Betts  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
[Osec.corro@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Osec.corro@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Premier, Ms Wilson, Mr Stokes and Mr Constance,

### **Western Harbour Tunnel Environmental Impact Statement – Urgent Request for Suspension**

We again forward this letter first sent to you on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We understand that you are very busy but it is a simple request and given the exhibition time frames urgency is required. As you can see we have a growing number of key groups calling for a suspension due to the stress and strain of COVID-19. We have not been able to meet, access the EIS in the Library and our parents have been under increasing pressure for several weeks/ months. We are also receiving reports that the government submission portal is not working (sometimes at all, sometimes very slowly) which is limiting submissions – given there are no email submissions permitted and people cannot “hand deliver” this is a major constraint. Suspending the projects at this difficult time would be an act of good faith and provide some much needed mental health relief as well as an opportunity for meaningful consultation with the community most impacted at a time when they are able to do so. Proceeding with such an enormous construction program in and around 26 schools without adequate consultation is fraught with risk. We have attached the letter from North Sydney’s Mayor dated 23 March 2020 as additional information to support this request. We look

forward to your earliest reply. We would request that the project be re-exhibited after people have re-settled into work and school and are mentally able to cope with a project of such enormous proportions and serious impacts. We would also request that any submissions are brought forward to that time.

Letter Forwarded to G. Berejiklian and F. Wilson 19/3/20120 with cc to R. Stokes and A. Constance.

We are writing to you regarding the Western Harbour and Warringah Freeway EIS which went on exhibition on the first day of school this term (29<sup>th</sup> January). Firstly, we would like to recognise that an additional 18 days was provided for review of the EIS, an extended timeframe which was gratefully received. Having settled somewhat into the school year our community began to engage with the EIS documents. Upon initial review it became evident that this is a far larger project with much broader ramifications than we had understood from the Reference Design Plans. The EIS documents are lengthy (with over 9000+ pages including appendices) and complex. Last week the community requested clarification on the Warringah Freeway changes with the attached document (attachment 1) being issued to clarify the complex descriptions in the EIS. The implications of re-configuring the Warringah Freeway alone (to accommodate two tunnels, ventilation outlets, ramps and flow management) are only now able to be fully understood. Schools across the route border the Warringah Freeway and many of our catchments cross it. The safety and welfare of children is of the utmost concern to us. The ramifications across the route, which runs along the largest school district in Australia (see sample schools list attachment 2), are complex and we believe need proper and careful consideration in consultation with community. The impacts are exacerbated by the number of support sites needed and scale of work required i.e. more than 6000 construction movements per day (see attachment 2) and night works to keep the Freeway operational.

Despite some clarification we believe that genuine community consultation and engagement just isn't possible under the current circumstances. As you are highly aware the commencement of the school term coincided with the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. Since that time, school communities and parents have been increasingly busy developing measures and adjusting daily activities to best protect children and our communities. The crisis is having a huge impact on people's ability to engage with and understand this complex project. With a high proportion of working parents (often in jobs requiring travel) in the area the virus has presented a real challenge. Many parents have reported taking on extra responsibility at work to communicate and develop procedures, others have experienced constantly changing work/ travel arrangements which have impacted family and of course those that own small businesses have had to give them greater focus. Others have elderly or vulnerable family to care for, in addition to ensuring their children stay safe and well. As the weeks have passed and the threat has increased our families and community have genuinely had less time to devote to understanding the project and their emotional capacity to respond to the EIS is limited. The cumulative impact of helping our children through the smoke impacts and distress of the recent bushfires, severe storm events and outages, followed by COVID-19 cannot be underestimated. Adding a wide ranging and high impact 5-6 year construction project (which carries well documented risk) is exacerbating anxiety for many and preventing genuine engagement and consultation.

In the light of all that has occurred this year and the complexity and impact of this project **we are writing to you to ask that you formally suspend the EIS process (and that of the Beaches Link EIS) until after the virus crisis has fully passed** and families are able to return to normal routines of life. We believe that a suspension is in the best interest of the school communities we represent both as individuals and P&C's. We would request that any submissions lodged so far be brought forward to the final consultation time. We would also request that as the additional drop in sessions have not been able to be fully attended due to social distancing concerns, that these be re-instated at the time of re-release. We understand that this would be an unusual action but we

are sure that you yourselves have greater priorities at this unusual and difficult time. We believe that the community’s resources and focus would be best placed caring for the 10,000+ children who attend local schools and that consultation would be far more participatory once the COVID-19 crisis has passed. Announcing a suspension would lift one of the stressors for our community at this difficult time and would no doubt be gratefully received by all.

Yours sincerely,

Cammeray Public School P&C  
 Anzac Park Public School P&C  
 Cammeraygal High School P&C  
 Neutral Bay School Council  
 Other North Sydney School - in Confidence

This request is supported by as at 26<sup>th</sup> March

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)	North Sydney Precinct – Neutral North Sydney Precinct – Brightmore North Sydney Precinct – Registry North Sydney Precinct – Lavender Bay North Sydney Precinct – Edward North Sydney Precinct – Harrison North Sydney Precinct - Bay North Sydney Council	Castlecrag Progress Association Naremburn Progress Association Willoughby South Progress Association Castle Cove Progress Association Artarmon Progress Association Northbridge Progress Association Councillor Nic Wright – Willoughby Council
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# Attachment 1: Clarification of Extent of Changes

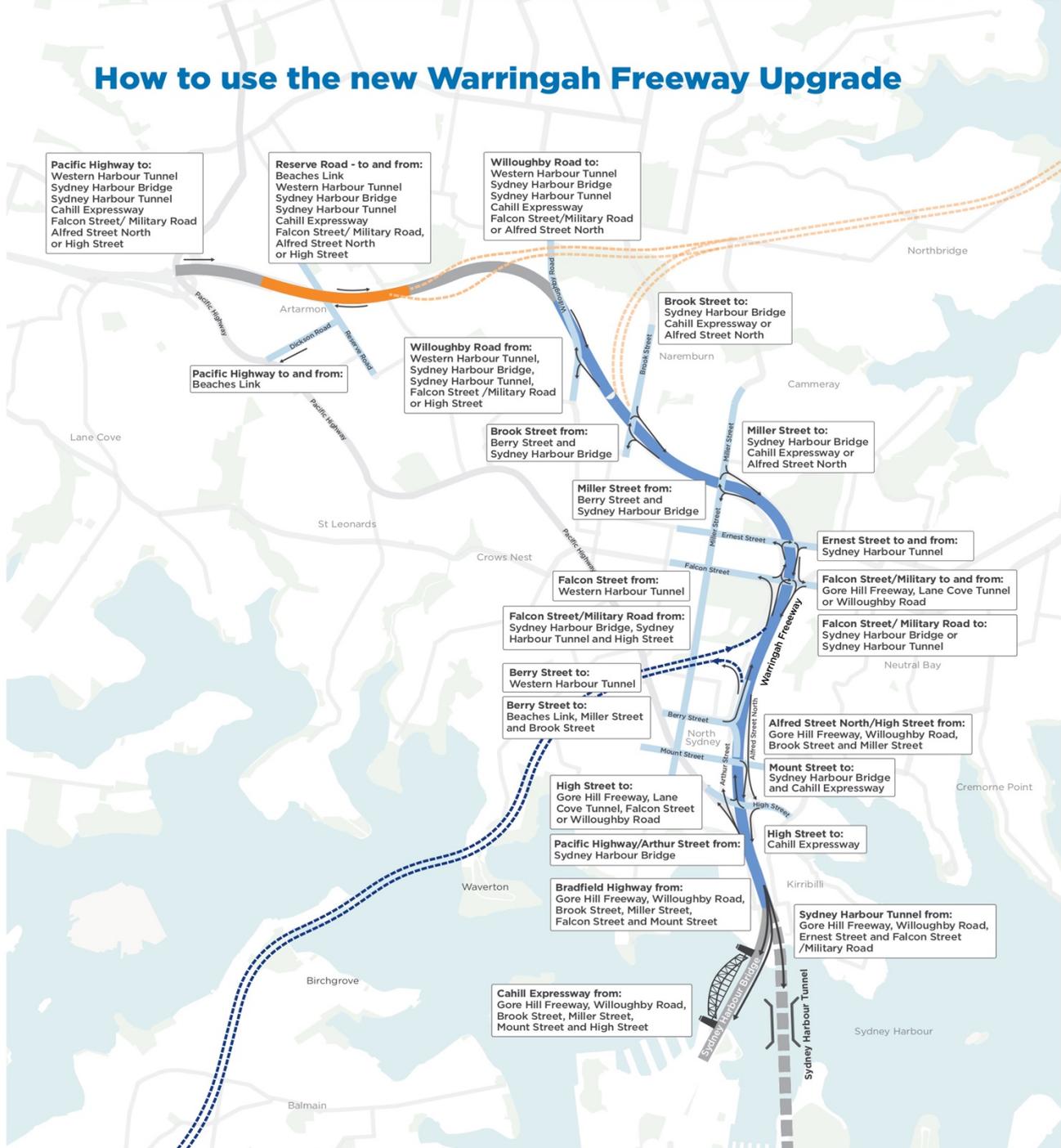


## Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade

March 2020



### How to use the new Warringah Freeway Upgrade



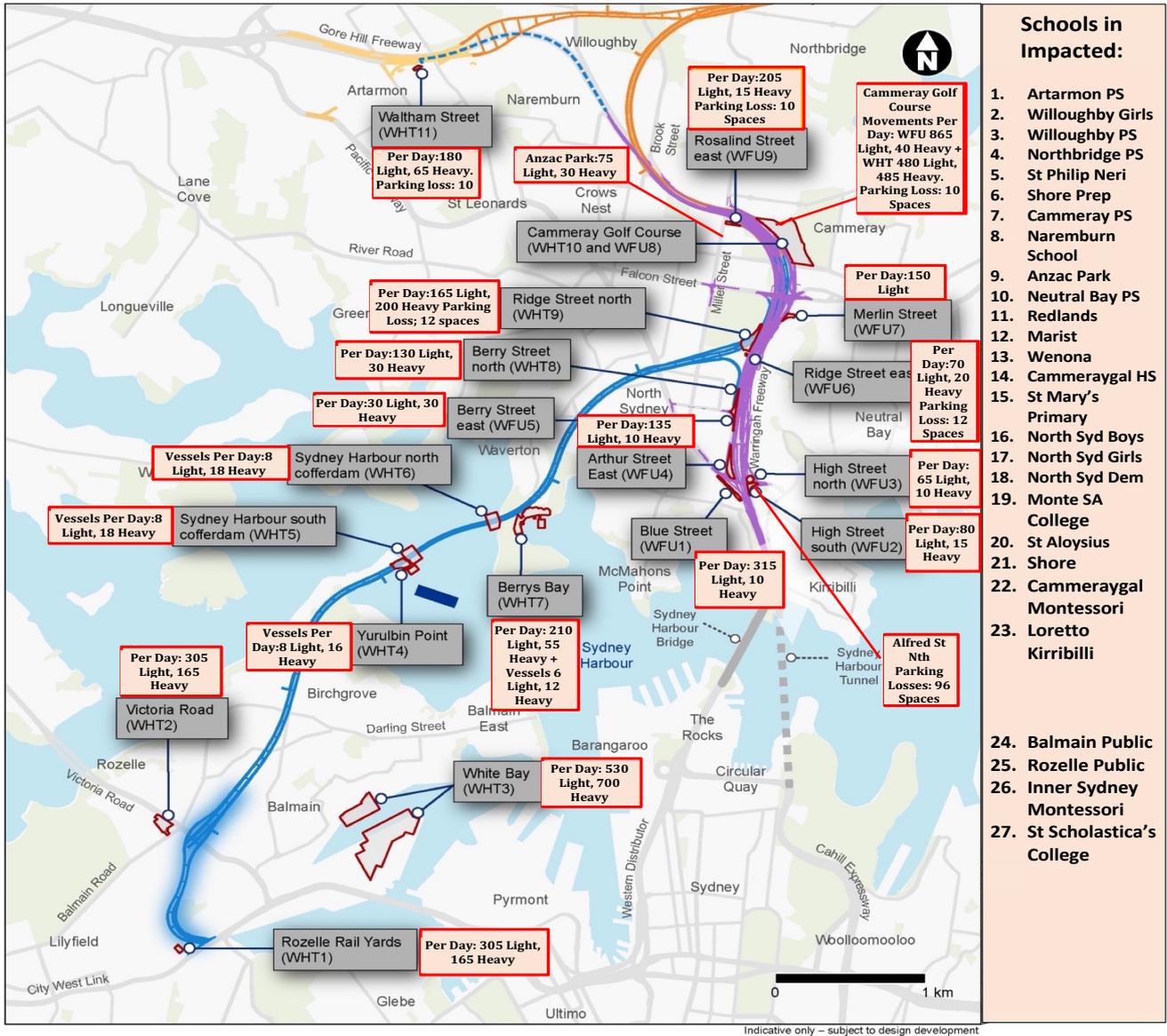
**Attachment 2:**

Base extract from Figure 6-1 Overview of the Construction Work Sites, Chapter 6 Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway EIS.

**Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade  
Construction Sites and Vehicle Movements**

EIS Exhibition Closes 30<sup>th</sup> March

Total Construction Vehicles Movements Daily = **6343\*** (peak 2021-2024)  
Total Known Parking Space Losses = **150** (does not include construction worker parking)



- Schools in Impacted:**
1. Artarmon PS
  2. Willoughby Girls
  3. Willoughby PS
  4. Northbridge PS
  5. St Philip Neri
  6. Shore Prep
  7. Cammeray PS
  8. Nareburn School
  9. Anzac Park
  10. Neutral Bay PS
  11. Redlands
  12. Marist
  13. Wenona
  14. Cammeraygal HS
  15. St Mary's Primary
  16. North Syd Boys
  17. North Syd Girls
  18. North Syd Dem
  19. Monte SA College
  20. St Aloysius
  21. Shore
  22. Cammeraygal Montessori
  23. Loretto Kirribilli
  24. Balmain Public
  25. Rozelle Public
  26. Inner Sydney Montessori
  27. St Scholastica's College

**Legend**

**Construction features**

- Western Harbour Tunnel
- Warringah Freeway Upgrade
- Communications cable for motorway control centre
- Fit out and commissioned as part of Western Harbour Tunnel, constructed as part of WestConnex M4-M5 Link

**Connecting projects**

- Beaches Link
- Gore Hill Freeway Connection

**Other features:**

- Construction support sites
- Mooring site

Above map is an extract from the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway EIS. Figure 6-1 Overview of the Construction Support Sites. Truck movement and parking information has been added from Appendix F. All EIS information is available at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10451>. This is not an exhaustive list of construction and traffic impacts, please also complete your own research as this is intended as a guide only.

WHTWFUSTCTV.3

Attachment 3: See North Sydney Mayors Request to Halt dated 23/3/2020  
Attachment 4: North Sydney Council Supporting Information