

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link

Hearing 13 September 2021

Supplementary Questions

Questions for Mosman Council

1. You mentioned that the project is a “missed opportunity to rejuvenate” Military Road. Wasn't one of the main project goals to address the Military Road corridor?

Yes the projects goals was to address the Military Road corridor in regard to improving travel time and reducing traffic. I raised this matter in regard to ensuring that the project includes funding improve the amenity of the corridor in response to this reduction of traffic. In this regard I am talking about the missed opportunity to increase pedestrianisation, tree canopy, improved active transport opportunities along the existing above ground corridor. Council sees there is a great opportunity to along with the tunnel include funding for works above the tunnel.

2. Based on your reading of the EIS, will Military Road traffic be reduced as a result of the project when compared to today's level of traffic?

It is agreed that the project will likely result in a reduction in traffic along Military Road. Given growth, it is considered that traffic volumes on Military Road will see a return at-capacity levels some time in the future. Further studies may be required to estimate the speed of this return and this is beyond the capability for Council to determine.

Council considers that there is a brief window of opportunity, during the initial and temporary reduction in traffic, to remodel the Military Road corridor from a strictly regional transport-prioritised model, into a model that also allows for the promotion of local centres and communities. To do nothing would simply see the existing conditons return sometime in the future. This reinforces Councils view on (1) above.

- a. Why do you think that more money is needed to address Military Road?

As described above, a 'Business As Usual' approach to Military Road is not expected to result in any long-term benefits to the LGAs along this corridor, as traffic volumes will eventually return to at-capacity levels. Funding is needed to improve the function of the corridor as a 'Place' that prioritises local access and liveability. This may include more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure (paths and crossing facilities), more parking opportunities, more outdoor dining and right-turn opportunities at signalised intersections to improve local access.

- b. Does this project not achieve its goals without needing further investment?

Refer to Question 2a.

3. Have you considered the impact on commuters travelling to and from Mosman following the changes to local access to the Warringah Freeway (both due to reduced east-west access to the Lower North Shore and the limitations being applied to various Harbour crossings)?

Council's submission was based on the EIS provided by Transport for NSW. The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW are responsible to study the impact on commuters travelling to and from Mosman. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

4. Have you considered the impact to the school students travelling from the Mosman Area to Lower North Shore schools?

Refer to Question 3.

5. What do you think those impacts will be during and after construction?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW are responsible to study the impact during and after construction. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

6. Do you have concerns about contaminant management in local parks on the Lower North Shore which are shared across communities?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW are responsible to manage this issue. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

7. Do you think you will see an increase in work from home and local work hubs as a result of COVID-19?

It is not relevant to the EIS and Council has no relevant information to answer the question.

8. Do you have concerns about the large number of workers that will need to commute to the Spit Reserve Site and the Northern Beaches and the impact on local traffic over at least 5 years of construction?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is expected to monitor the impact on local road network and subject to community consultation, implement appropriate changes to the road network. Council understands that there will be construction traffic as is with any major works and will work with TfNSW to minimise the impacts. It is noted that the Spit West Reserve Site is directly adjacent to a main arterial road, the most appropriate road class to manage construction vehicles.

9. Do you have concerns about the additional Spit Bridge Opening times and how they will impact traffic during construction?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is expected to manage the Spit Bridge Opening times and monitor the impact on Spit – Military roads corridor.

10. Do you have concerns about the contaminants that need to be dredged and transported by barge out along Middle Harbour and past beaches and residents?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is responsible to assess the risks associated with this projects. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

- a. Have you considered the risk of spills and the likely impacts the additional waterway traffic will have on threatened species such as Little Penguin?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is responsible to assess the risks associated with this project. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

11. Do local water recreational users and clubs have concerns regarding the project on the Harbour?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is responsible for all community engagement relating to this project. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly. Council has already engaged with TfNSW and sporting groups regarding imacts to Spit West Reserve and would expect this engagement to continue.

- a. What consultation have you had with them?

No consultation has been undertaken with harbour recreational groups by Council. Refer to Question 11.

12. Has there been any consultation with local residents regarding the noise, traffic and disruption that will occur as a result on the Middle Harbour Works?

No. Refer to Question11. Council has engaged with sporting groups who use Spit West Reserve and believe this can be adequately mangaged.

13. Has Mosman Council looked into the Climate and Sustainability profile of the projects and do you have any concerns?

No. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter and manage any impacts accordingly.

- a. Do you think a toll road tunnel option should be compared to alternatives given that profile?

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is responsible to assess and compare the options. Council would seek TfNSW to appropriately consider this matter.

14. What evidence do you have that the community wants a road tunnel option?

The tunnel option is proposed and funded by the State Government. Mosman Council has been on the public record supporting the tunnel for many years and there is a Council resolution as such.

- a. Have any surveys been conducted by Council?

No. However there have been numerous publicly available Council reports on the matter, the matter has been publicly debated by Council several times, and Council has responded positively and in support for the tunnel in its submission. Mosman Council has been on the public record supporting the tunnel for many years and there is a Council resolution as such.

- b. Are the community aware and comfortable with the environmental impacts?

See above. Council has resolved it in principle supports the tunnel.

The project is being undertaken by Transport for NSW. As this is a state government project, Transport for NSW is responsible for all community engagement relating to this project.

- c. Has there been any consultation regarding alternative options?

Refer to Question 9b.