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Mr Jeremy Bath Chief Executive Officer City of Newcastle ceo@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Bath

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Planning, which was referred to the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, about the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project. I have been asked to respond to you.

I note the City of Newcastle's (Council) concerns and comments about the transportation of materials from this project to Newcastle.

I assure you that Transport for NSW understands the concerns about the removal and transportation of dredged and excavated materials from Middle Harbour, which is required for installing immersed tube tunnels for the Beaches Link.

I can advise that material not suitable for offshore disposal would be loaded into barges and treated within the barges at Middle Harbour, in Sydney, to make the material spadable. This will allow the material to be spaded or shovelled. The treated material is then proposed to be transported by barge to a facility which will unload the material from the barge directly into trucks, known as a loadout facility.

Testing has shown that the material does not fall into the higher categories of special waste, hazardous waste or restricted waste. Toxicity characteristics for the material have been tested and classified in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority Waste Classification Guidelines, and the material has been classified as a general solid waste and will be disposed of accordingly at a suitably licenced facility.

Transport for NSW went through an extensive review of potential sites for the loadout facility before proposing Mayfield No.4 Berth at the Port of Newcastle as the preferred location at this stage of the detailed design and construction planning process. It is currently a proposed site only and is subject to planning approval by the Department of Planning and Environment and agreement with the Port of Newcastle. The final location of the loadout facility may change.

Currently, discussions between Transport for NSW and the Port of Newcastle are on hold. Transport for NSW intends to resume discussions with Port of Newcastle following planning approval and will continue to work closely with them, as well as with Council and the local community ahead of and during construction of Beaches Link. Transport for NSW is committed to prioritising the health and safety of the Newcastle community while protecting the local environment.

I trust this information is of assistance.

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Yours sincerely

07/03/2022

Terry McSweeney Director Customer Response

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