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Mona Vale Road East upgrade
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973, Parramatta CBD
NSW 2124
Via email: monavaleroad@rms.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Submission regarding Mona Vale Road East upgrade proposed design and Review of Environmental Factors

On behalf of the Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (SHOROC) I make the following submission in regard to the Mona Vale Road East upgrade proposed design and Review of Environmental Factors.

SHOROC is a partnership of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Councils led by a Board of the council Mayors and General Managers. We advocate for our region, coordinate regional planning, and build partnerships to improve the strategic capacity of our member councils.

This submission has been endorsed by the SHOROC General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) of council General Managers.

The proposed road upgrades

SHOROC has long supported the need for Mona Vale Road to be upgraded to a divided dual-lane carriageway for its full length through to Mona Vale to improve safety and efficiency, and enable Warriewood/Ingleside growth.

This was a key priority in SHOROC's regional strategy *Shaping Our Future*, adopted by all four partner councils in 2009, and a focus of regional advocacy to see this critical infrastructure delivered.

As such, the proposed upgrades to widen Mona Vale Road between Manor Road and Foley Street from two lanes to four lanes are supported.

Timetable for the upgrades

It is not clear from the project documentation the proposed construction timetable for this project.

SHOROC is of this view that this project and the associated Mona Vale Road West project are a major priority for this region and that funding should be allocated and construction completed within the next five years.

Enabling and facilitating fast public transport

Fast and reliable public transport is a key priority for SHOROC and our partner councils. It is noted that the Mona Vale to Macquarie Park corridor via Mona vale Road is identified as a 'Suburban' bus service in the Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan.

Our view is that these upgrades should facilitate, as a high priority, the provision of direct express bus services along this route between Mona Vale and Macquarie Park to encourage a modal shift to public transport for travellers on this corridor.

Residents of the SHOROC region rely heavily on private vehicles and public buses to commute to work and for travel to retail and recreation places. The three major road corridors are significantly congested, with the Pittwater/Spit/Military Road corridor the most congested in Sydney according to Transport for NSW and Warringah Road identified by Infrastructure Australia as the third most costly corridor to the Australian economy due to congestion.

The region has high employment containment relative to other areas of Sydney, with 76.6% of jobs filled by locals and 48.0% of working residents employed within the region. However this has declined marginally in recent years and congestion is impacting local business operations. If not addressed it will mean a loss of local jobs and put pressure on future job creation, placing even more pressure on the transport network.

It is critical that these works maximise the opportunities to provide significantly improved public transport through this Suburban service as well as ensuring any future potential Bus Rapid Transit service is enabled.

Active transport

Enabling and encouraging active transport (walking and cycling) across the region including on this major route is a priority. As such every effort should be made to maximise walking and cycling connections and encourage active transport use.

Management of traffic and transport across the region during construction

In considering the local traffic and transport impacts during construction it will also be critical in project planning to consider regional transport management.

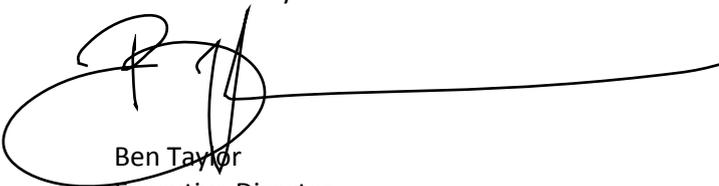
Concurrent to the planned construction timetable will also be construction of on-road infrastructure for the Pittwater/Spit/Military Road Bus Rapid Transit, increased traffic due to the Northern Beaches Hospital construction, the Northern Beaches Hospital road connectivity upgrades, and other impacts including major construction in the CBD.

These works are fully supported and it is acknowledged that there will be changes required in order to deliver a better transport system for the long term.

However, there is also a need to adaptively manage the traffic and public transport across the region during this time, not just locally, to minimise the cumulative impact on travel times and congestion. Alternative arrangements such as increased express bus services, more direct bus services to the ferries, encouraging commuters to adapt their travel times and other opportunities should be explored from a regional transport planning basis in conjunction with SHOROC and councils.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS for this important project. Should you wish to discuss this submission further please feel free to contact me on (02) 9905 0095 or by email to ben.taylor@shoroc.com.

Yours sincerely



Ben Taylor
Executive Director