North Sydney Council is calling for any further work on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link projects to be suspended until a robust assessment of all possible solutions to the transport problems of the northern beaches and the flow on effects on the lower north shore is undertaken.

North Sydney Council is calling for a halt to the Tunnel plans because:
- no community consultation was undertaken prior to key decisions, such as the proposed route of the tunnel, being announced
- there has been no comprehensive analysis of the transport issues facing northern Sydney
- there has been no consideration of alternative solutions, such as public transport options
- the proposed tunnels are inconsistent with the productivity, liveability and sustainability objectives for Sydney which were determined by the Greater Sydney Commission
- no traffic modelling has been made available
- the proposed tunnels do not take into consideration the transport objectives of the council areas affected, including North Sydney Council
- proposed road tunnels threaten to undermine Council’s initiatives to create a more liveable and walkable community and will potentially negatively impact neighbourhoods

The scope of the project is narrowly defined which does not allow for potential benefits for the North Sydney community to be negotiated.

What Council voted to do:
Council resolved to ask the Premier to:
- develop a holistic transport plan for northern Sydney
- release detailed plans of the proposal, including details of which properties are to be acquired and what, if any, parks or other open space will be affected by the proposal
- halt the project until meaningful community consultation about the whole project is undertaken and before any expressions of interest or tenders are let or contracts signed

Council also decided to coordinate a community campaign and prepare a submission to the State Government about the proposed tunnels in the context of the proposed B-Line project, existing transport infrastructure and traffic flows in the North Sydney LGA.
To overcome the procedural shortcomings leading up to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link announcement, the following basic process is recommended:

1. Define the problem – Using the best available evidence regarding transport behaviour in northern Sydney and beyond
2. Identify a long term vision – Based on productivity, liveability and sustainability objectives befitting a fast growing modern city like Sydney
3. Community consultation – Robust and meaningful engagement prior to key decisions being made
4. Options development – Based on best-practice city making and integrated transport and land-use planning
5. Options assessment – Based on clear vision based assessment criteria
6. Strategic Business Case Development – Clearly identifying the overall benefits of investment in the project

Given the role that mass transit systems, particularly metro rail networks, play in successful global cities around the world, an expanded metro network including a metro rail link between Chatswood to the northern beaches, should be one of the options assessed.

For more information email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au or ph 9936 8100
www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Have your say and keep informed

Email Council to subscribe to our eNews to be kept informed about the State Government’s transport projects which impact the North Sydney area

Have your say - contact your local member of parliament

Gladys Berejiklian
Member for Willoughby
Ph 9439 4199
Email willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Felicity Wilson
Member for North Shore
Ph 9909 2594
Email northshore@parliament.nsw.gov.au