

## **MINUTES OF MEETING – RTA, NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL & RESIDENTS COUNCIL OFFICES – 7 APRIL 2011**

### **WARRINGAH FREEWAY NOISE WALLS**

#### **Present**

- Genia McCaffery - Mayor NS Council
- Cathy Edwards-Davis – Traffic Engineer NSC
- Peter Crosby – RTA Sydney Region Manager
- Joseph Fanous – RTA – Sydney Environmental Manager and Manager NAP
- Michael Chung – Renzo Tonin & Associates
- Looi Soong - Renzo Tonin & Associates
- Kathy Bisits – Resident
- Graham Webster – Resident

#### **PREVIOUS MEETING**

Previous meeting was held on 16 December 2010 at Council Offices

#### **WARRINGAH FREEWAY NOISE ASSESSMENT & REPORT**

1. RTA confirmed that Renzo Tonin Associates (Acoustics Consultants) have carried out an assessment of traffic noise impact on residents living near the Warringah Freeway (WF) between Willoughby Road and south of Falcon Street
2. 12 sample properties were assessed in December 2010 for noise levels. Properties were located in streets – Donnelly, Palmer, Brook, Chandos, Sexton, Metcalfe, Tarella, Bellevue, Cammeray, Moodie, Merlin (2)
3. From these results, the noise impact on all residences close to the WF has been modelled providing estimates of noise levels for each individual residence
4. Report also provided suggested locations of future noise barriers along sections of the WF
5. Copy of Renzo report was provided to Council
6. Residents noted that they had expected that noise level comparison would be against levels under NSW Road Noise Policy ((for redevelopment /alterations to freeways (60dB day/55dB night) as previously discussed and minuted to support the “Special Case” for funding)). RTA advised position had changed (as detailed under NAP below)
7. Location of some existing noise walls detailed in plans in the Renzo report was queried by residents. Residents will check physical locations of walls and advise RTA (Joseph Fanous)

#### **NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAM (NAP)**

8. RTA advised that funding for noise abatement under NAP is expected to be increased substantially from next year (2011/2012) subject to formal advice and ratification by incoming State Government
9. Criteria for NAP and the prioritising of properties is also expected to be changed after review of NAP. These changes will be advised to impacted residents by RTA when formalised in a few months
10. RTA advised (subject to above increase in funding) that WF noise abatement is now expected to be carried out under NAP funding over many years. For this reason RTA now does not intend to pursue the ‘Special Case’ to seek special funding for noise abatement of WF

11. RTA advised that first section of noise abatement (noise walls) on WF under NAP will likely be commenced in the 2011/2012 year – this will be along a high noise area in Cammeray – along the northern side of WF between Tarella Place to an area west of Sexton Place. (Areas noted as 4 and 5a in the Renzo Report)

#### **SPECIAL CASE FOR FUNDING OF NOISE ABATEMENT ON WARRINGAH FREEWAY**

12. Whilst pleased that funding for NAP will increase, Council and residents believe that the ‘Special Case’ should still be pursued so that the whole of WF can receive appropriate noise abatement. Council with residents will seek a meeting with the Minister for Roads, Duncan Gay, recently appointed by the newly elected State Government
13. Support for ‘Special Case’ includes many reasons already detailed and includes -
- if built today WF would have full noise walls,
  - New Freeways have added to WF traffic – Gore Hill M2 M7 etc – these all have noise walls
  - Sydney Harbour tunnel has been added
  - widening of WF has occurred through use of emergency lanes for traffic – now 16/18 lanes wide – this was a Freeway upgrade
  - widening of M2 is now in progress
  - WF is part of Sydney Orbital – 110 kms – most of which has good noise walls – RTA acknowledges that WF missed out
  - Upgrades of Bus layover and exit to Falcon St have been added – these are extensions/changes
  - Low noise road surface has not been used
  - Noise levels for over 100 properties are believed to be above NAP prioritising noise levels and many more above NSW Road Noise Policy levels
14. Residents submit that noise levels should be compared to the levels under NSW Road Noise policy for redevelopment /alterations to freeways (60dB day/55dB night) as W Freeway has been extended/ modified many times by addition of M2 and M7 etc and also the number of traffic lanes has been increased over the years - not assessed against noise level for NAP (65dB day/60dB night)

#### **BUS LAYOVER**

15. Construction and operation of Bus Layover is expected to be completed in April/May 2011
16. As previously advised by RTA, noise monitoring of residences near the bus layover will be undertaken again 6 months after operation commences to determine if traffic noise levels have increased

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- To be arranged after meeting with Minister for Roads

#### **POST MEETING NOTES –**

- 1 - Residents request that a summary of the Renzo Report be prepared in conjunction with Council - by end of May.
- 2 - Residents request a meeting with RTA/Council after analysis /summation of Renzo Report to further understand likely action in the future