29 March 2010

Dear Minister

RE: WARRINGAH FREEWAY – BUS LAYOVER

As you know, Council supports the bus layover proposal at Cammeray as a means to improve public transport.

I want to thank you for your crucial decision to proceed with the shared regional bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to the Cammeray golf course. This decision reflects the understanding that as there will be construction teams on-site for the bus layover with site facilities and excavation equipment etc. the marginal cost of construction of the bicycle path in conjunction with the bus layover is significantly less than if this project were undertaken at a later date. Further, once the bus layover has been constructed, the space available for the construction of the bicycle path will be considerably more restricted. This is clearly the most cost effective and least disruptive time therefore to undertake these works. Council greatly appreciates the inclusion of this facility in the bus layover project.

Council’s last remaining concern regarding this project is that it is not currently intended to install a noise wall to shield residents from the Warringah Freeway and the bus layover.

Similarly, to the regional bike path, a noise wall will be much cheaper to construct at the same time as the bus layover. Since my last letter, I continue to receive further correspondence from residents in the area who are deeply concerned that the bus layover project is going ahead without the installation of noise walls.

The Warringah Freeway has a large negative impact on the residents of North Sydney. The volume of vehicles using this road has progressively increased. For many years, Council has been asking the RTA to investigate the installation of sound barriers along the Freeway, particularly at Cammeray. Sections along the Warringah Freeway
through Naremburn, Artarmon and Lane Cove have received noise walls. However, to date, Cammeray has not. If the Warringah Freeway were built today it would automatically receive noise walls along its entire length. It is only because there has been a gradual and steady increase in vehicle volumes and associated noise that this road has not been given the noise wall treatment which it requires.

The bus layover project will move the Warringah Freeway on-ramp closer to residential properties. Therefore, Council requests that the RTA urgently reconsider this matter and install sound walls along the Warringah Freeway, adjacent to the bus layover, in consultation with the residents.

The bus layover project is due to commence shortly. I would request that you review this issue urgently prior to the works commencing.

It would be appreciated if you could contact my office on 9933 8112 as soon as possible as we understand that this project is to commence shortly.

Yours sincerely.

Genia McCaffery
MAYOR

Cc Mr Michael Bushby
CEO
Roads and Traffic Authority

Ms Gladys Berejiklian MP
Member for Willoughby

Ms Jillian Skinner MP
Member for North Shore