

Mr Michael Bushby
Chief Executive Officer
Roads and Traffic Authority
Locked Bag 928
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

3 November 2010

Dear Mr Bushby

RE: NOISE WALLS ON THE WARRINGAH FREEWAY

Council recently hosted a public meeting to discuss noise issues associated with the Warringah Freeway. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RTA representatives, Mr Peter Crosby and Mr Joseph Fanous for attending that meeting. For your information I have attached a copy of minutes from this meeting.

At the meeting it was noted that noise issues from the Freeway have a considerable impact on North Sydney residents. Noise walls are urgently needed.

I continue to receive correspondence from concerned residents living near the Warringah Freeway, Cammeray requesting that we once again approach the RTA on behalf of the residents to request the installation of noise walls along the Warringah Freeway.

Council is acutely aware of the negative impact the Warringah Freeway has had on the residents of North Sydney. It has created a physical and psychological divide to the North Sydney community, and it has also brought about negative environmental factors such as noise and air pollution and associated health impacts. The volume of vehicles using this road has progressively increased. I have made representations to the State Government on a number of occasions pointing out that road projects such as the Lane Cove Tunnel Project seem to be able to attract funding, encouraging further reliance on the private motor vehicle. However, public transport, such as the north-west rail link or north-west metro, which actually have the capacity to carry Sydney's increasing population are promised and not delivered. Many residents of Sydney therefore have no option but to continue to travel by private car. This then exacerbates the negative impacts of roads such as the Warringah Freeway.

For many years, I have been asking the RTA to investigate the installation of a noise wall along the Warringah Freeway, between Brook Street and Miller Street. It is noted that noise walls are already installed through Naremburn, Artarmon and Lane Cove. This matter is a standing item on every North Sydney Traffic Committee agenda.

It is understood from the residents that this area is listed on the RTA's noise abatement program (NAP). However, residents have been told it is likely to be 10-20 years before noise walls are installed in Cammeray.

As you would be aware the current NAP only has \$1.7 million funding across Sydney each year. There are a number of residents, along the Warringah Freeway in Cammeray, who meet the above criteria and have been on the NAP list for many years; some upwards of 15 years. However, they are no closer to receiving noise treatments adjacent to their properties as other roads/ properties have subsequently been added to the list and received treatment ahead of them. Residents feel that the "goal posts keep moving".

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. Since it opened in 1968, the volume of traffic on this corridor has increased steadily and it now carries more than 200,000 vehicles each day. Additional roads have been connected to it, such as the Gore Hill Freeway and Lane Cove Tunnel, which further increases vehicle volumes. In this context, Council requests that you treat the Warringah Freeway as a "special case" and fast track funding for noise walls.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me on 9936 8112.

Yours sincerely

Genia McCaffery
MAYOR

Cc Jillian Skinner Member for North Shore
Gladys Berejiklian Member for Willoughby