

The Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC
Minister for Roads and Ports
Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

26 April 2012

Dear Minister

RE: WARRINGAH FREEWAY – NOISE WALLS

Council recently held a meeting with concerned residents and the RMS to discuss noise issues associated with the Warringah Freeway. I would like to thank the RMS representative, Mr Joseph Fanous, for giving an update on the State Government's current actions and future plans in relation to Noise Abatement in our local government area.

I am pleased to hear the NSW Government has allocated \$15M towards the 2012/2013 financial year for the Noise Abatement Program (NAP) across NSW. Hopefully this boost in funding will mean that residents living near the Warringah Freeway, Cammeray, will receive noise abatement treatments sooner and the commitment to boost funding for the NAP continues into future years. I would appreciate if you could confirm the NSW Government's plans towards the future funding arrangements for the NAP over the next five years.

At the meeting it was noted that noise abatement treatments in three Noise Catchment Areas (NCA1 - Merlin Street, Neutral Bay, NCA4 - West Street and Tarella Place, Cammeray and NCA5A - Sexton Place) have received funding for the 2012/2013 financial year. It was also noted that all nine other Noise Catchment Areas have yet to be funded.

Council firmly believes that the noise issues associated with the Warringah Freeway should be treated as a "special case" which warrants fast-track funding for the NAP. As you are aware, 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 addition, low noise road surfacing and truck engine braking noise was also discussed at the meeting. Residents have requested that the Warringah Freeway is resurfaced with appropriate low noise road surface treatment. It is my understanding that the M2 Motorway was recently re-sheeted with low surface noise bitumen and this has greatly reduced road traffic noise on this road.

Furthermore, engine braking is a significant source of road noise. Current legislation remains silent on engine braking and Council requests that the NSW Government toughens their stance on excessive truck braking noise and pursue innovative vehicle technologies which mitigate engine braking noise.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Council's Manager Traffic Planning, Mr Aurelio Lindaya, on 9936 8242

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Genia McCaffery
MAYOR

Cc Gladys Berejiklian Minister for Transport