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Ms Felicity Wilson MP
Member for North Shore
Suite 3, 40 Yeo Street
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089

MO4 (CIS)

26 June 2017

Dear Ms Wilson,

RE: B-LINE, THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

I refer to your letter dated 26 May 2017 regarding this Council's objection to the B-line, Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link initiatives and concern regarding the lack of an integrated transport strategy for northern Sydney.

Your letter identifies that the strategic need for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link projects is outlined within the State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014 prepared by Infrastructure NSW and that the NSW government accepted its recommendations. The State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014 includes only four paragraphs regarding the Western Harbour Tunnel and seven paragraphs on the Beaches Link 'investigation'. It is assumed this information is the strategic justification for the projects referred to in your letter hence our considered objection.

The inclusion of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link projects in the State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014 does not appear to be supported by any strategic studies or expert reports. Nor does it appear that consideration or assessment of alternate options was undertaken. In addition, the preparation of the State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014 did not involve consultation with Council or the North Sydney community and does not appear to have given consideration to Council's strategic objectives regarding transport as outlined in documents such as the North Sydney Community Strategic Plan.

While the Transport for NSW "Long-term Transport Master Plan" (December 2012) is identified, that document refers to corridor investigations for 'enhanced north south links' (p140) with the identified corridor running from Westconnex south of Leichhardt under Drummoyne and Hunters Hill to Ryde and the M2 motorway. No investigations regarding a corridor under North Sydney or to the northern beaches are identified.

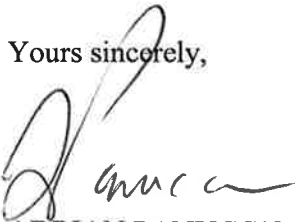
The draft North District Plan released by the Greater Sydney Commission in November 2016 contains no new information on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link beyond the limited information contained in the State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014. Council's concerns regarding the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link were included in our submission to the Commission on the Draft North District Plan.

In light of the above, it is considered that the advice drawn on by Council in resolving to oppose the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link projects was both reasonable and appropriate. Council's ongoing concerns with this project remain valid and will continue to be pursued given the limited information and strategic analysis currently provided to support this project.

I welcome your offer for the relevant project teams to brief Councillors and key staff. Council involvement in the lead up to key decisions being made would have been highly desirable. Notwithstanding this, I have every confidence in Council's professionalism and ability to work constructively with the State government at an operational level to ensure all State infrastructure projects are delivered in a manner that results in the best possible outcome for the North Sydney community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Hill, Director City Strategy on 9936 8100.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Panuccio', written over a light blue horizontal line.

ADRIAN PANUCCIO
A/GENERAL MANAGER