



Minister for Roads
Minister for Economic Reform
Minister for Ports
Minister for the Hunter

M04/10487

Councillor M Matson
Mayor
City of Randwick
30 Frances Street
RANDWICK NSW 2031

Dear Cllr Matson

I refer to your letter to the former Minister for Roads regarding the proposed ramps on Gardeners Road to access Southern Cross Drive, Eastlakes.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) advise that you met with the Regional Manager, Sydney Client Services, Mike Veysey, and other RTA and Council staff on 27 January 2005.

In terms of the specific issues raised in your letter:

1. "No EIS to be done"

The RTA is currently undertaking an environmental assessment of this proposal. The attached extract from the "RTA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines" shows the process is similar whether a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is sufficient, or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. One major concern raised by both Ms Kristina Keneally MP and yourself is that there is no requirement to publicly exhibit a REF.

If, as currently anticipated by the RTA, an EIS is not required and an EIA is done by an REF, the RTA will commit to publicly exhibit the REF to ensure an appropriate level of public awareness of the proposal, and facilitate public input.

An EIS would be undertaken if the current EIA indicates one is required. It is appreciated that an effective Local Area Traffic Management scheme (LATM) will be required for the "West Ward" area (north of Gardeners Road, and east of the Australian Golf Course), to ameliorate the impact of additional "rat running" traffic potentially generated by the ramps.

The current suggested process, as discussed on 27 January 2005, is a public meeting by the end of February 2005, an EIA/REF display of the preferred option(s) about April/May 2005 with a display period of no less than 30 days, and wide publicity prior to and during the display period to encourage and facilitate public input.

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2. "Is the Kingsford Roundabout obsolete?"

I note your concern that (as reported to you) there are "currently 73 accidents per year at the roundabout". That figure is factually incorrect. There have been 73 recorded accidents over a 5 year period resulting in no fatalities and 34 injuries.

The RTA's Traffic Management Centre is of the view that the roundabout is currently operating satisfactorily and could cope with some additional increase in traffic on Gardeners Road. I note that it is not the view expressed to Council by local residents and I have asked the RTA to further investigate the operation of the roundabout and suggest any appropriate changes to simplify this complex intersection.

3. "No-left turns for Tunstall, Cottenham, Eastern, Maitland and Aboud Avenue"

As discussed on 27 January 2005, the RTA is investigating possible "No-left turn" bans from Gardeners Road into the above streets. It would assist if the residents had a common view on whether those bans should be weekday AM peak only or weekday AM and PM peak only or full-time left turn bans.

The most important issue with any LATM scheme is to reduce through traffic on some residential streets, without increasing it on other residential streets. As discussed Eastern Avenue, an existing two way bus route which already carries considerable traffic for a narrow street, is also of concern.

In any scenario likely to be considered equitable, some sharing of traffic demand (and possible sharing of bus demand also) between streets other than Eastern Avenue needs to be considered.

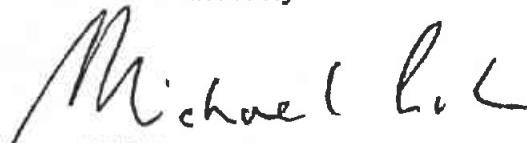
4. Why no re-opening of Dalmeny Avenue?

This point is irrelevant as it suggests altering a long standing road closure in Sydney City Council's area. If Randwick Council wishes to propose this, it should write to Sydney City Council. The RTA is prepared to seriously consider appropriate traffic management measures in West Kensington, provided bus routes and emergency vehicle access can be accommodated.

Council's stand to support the concerns of local residents is appreciated. I have asked the RTA to resolve outstanding matters to ensure this proposal (if approved) delivers the maximum benefit to as many local residents as possible.

The RTA's Regional Manager Sydney Client Services, Mike Veysey, may be contacted on (02) 8814 2120 should you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL COSTA



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR ROADS
MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS
MINISTER FOR THE HUNTER

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To: Mike Veysey
Fax Number: 8814 2155
From: Seija Walk
Date: 8/20/05
Re:

Pages to Follow: 2

→ cc Ken Kenagawajan
Randwick Council

Fax . 93990977

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File: 04M998

Steve Stewart

Your Reference: KK:MA 98/S/5326

General Manager
Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
RANDWICK NSW 2031

Attention: Ken Kanagarajan

Proposed south facing ramps from Gardeners Road to Southern Cross Drive

Dear Sir

I refer to your letters to the RTA dated 3rd and 21st December 2004 in which you related a number of Council's resolutions in regard to the subject project.

I offer the following in response to the points raised in your letter:

- (a) Council's support of the proposed ramps is noted. It should also be noted that the RTA is investigating the impact of the proposed ramps, especially in regard to the possible alteration of local traffic movement patterns and mitigating measures to be implemented in response to any impact identified. The RTA looks forward to working with Council to mitigate any impacts that may occur following the construction of the ramps.
 - i) As discussed above, the RTA is investigating alterations to local traffic movements and is developing mitigating measures to be implemented in response to any impact that the project may cause.
 - ii) The RTA will implement such noise mitigation measures as are required by the Government's policies and procedures.
 - iii) The RTA will investigate pedestrian movements at and around the project site as part of the investigations for the project and will implement practicable infrastructure to mitigate any adverse impacts to pedestrian movements caused by the project.
 - iv) The RTA is prepared to consider further improvements to the roundabout at Anzac Parade. However, Council would be aware that this is a very complicated intersection already and to improve it will not be an easy task.



- v) The RTA is planning community consultation with regard to the project in accordance with its usual practices. At this stage investigations are still at a preliminary stage and it is not expected that community consultation would be fruitful until the preliminary information is available. It is expected that this will not be available until February / March this year, at which stage consultation will be initiated. The RTA will consult further with Council representatives regarding the proposed consultation.

- (b) The RTA will be able to provide Council with project updates, as they become available.
- (c) Issues related to Lenthall Street are beyond the scope of this project.
- (d) Issues related to Dalmeny Ave and other local streets are beyond the scope of this project.
- (e) There are no plans to implement a grade separated interchange at Epsom Road and Southern Cross Drive and this has not emerged as a priority issue in the investigation of the South Sydney Package of works.
- (f) It is expected that the results of modelling and investigation of the various measures proposed for the South Sydney precinct will be ongoing and that the results of these investigations will be made available progressively.
- (g) Noted
- (h) Noted
- (i) The provision of south-facing ramps at Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road will offer considerable strategic benefits to motorists and residents of this area. However, the RTA considers that north-facing ramps at this location are not sufficiently justified to merit priority over other initiatives currently being investigated.
- (j) Noted

Yours faithfully



M. Veysey
Regional Manager
Sydney Client Services

27 January 2005