Wednesday, 2 March 2016

Northern Beaches Hospital site road network upgrade to go ahead

The final stage of the $500 million Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project has been approved.

A spokesperson from the Department of Planning and Environment says the upgrade to the road network is essential.

“The Northern Beaches Hospital will be a key part of the region’s health infrastructure and it’s important to improve the surrounding road network to accommodate the predicted increase in traffic,” the spokesperson said.

“The decision to approve the final stage of the road upgrade follows the exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement for public comment in July and August of last year.

“55 submissions were received, including 47 from the public and eight from Government agencies.

“Several submissions raised concerns about the potential impacts of the project on traffic and transport, biodiversity, noise, water quality and visual amenity.

The spokesperson says he’s confident these issues have been addressed in the environmental impact statement and the conditions of approval.

“The Department of Planning and Environment and independent peer reviews have considered the potential impacts of the road upgrade on the local area and have made recommendations to ensure these are adequately monitored and managed.

A spokesperson from Roads and Maritime Services said the upgrade forms part of a $500 million package of work to provide the community with new connections to the hospital, increase capacity on the road network around the new health precinct and improve access through the area for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

“This work will focus on increasing road capacity of major arterial roads around the hospital, including providing four through lanes on Warringah Road within a separated underpass,” the spokesperson said.

“The underpass will be built below the intersections of Forest Way, Hilmer Street and Wakehurst Parkway and help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. The project would also remove some congestion on surrounding local roads.

“Pedestrians and cyclists would benefit from two new shared path bridges across Warringah Road near Forest Way and Hilmer Street and new shared paths and
footpaths on sections of Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway, Forest Way, Aquatic Drive and Allambie Road.

“The community will continue to be updated on scheduled work including changes to traffic conditions.”

More information can be found at www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

Department of Planning and Environment media contact: (02) 9228 6128