

ITEM 18

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR COLACINO - 24 HOUR CLOSURE OF BALD HILL FOR TWO (2) FOUR (4) WEEK PERIODS

Councillor Colacino has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

"I formally move that Council write to Transport NSW, the Minister for Transport and Roads – Mr Andrew Constance and the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads – Mr Paul Toole, in response to Transport NSW's call for feedback regarding the recently announced 24 hour closures of Bald Hill for two four week periods. Within council's response it should include the following points –

- 1 Council acknowledges the need for works to be done on Bald Hill, at Stanwell Park, to ensure the ongoing viability of this much needed access route down the Illawarra escarpment.
- 2 Council requests that Transport NSW give careful consideration to the impacts the closure will have on local residents, businesses and visitors, and review the proposed construction methodology with the aim of further mitigating these impacts. Specifically –
  - a The increased traffic congestion at the bottom of Bulli Pass when vehicles attempt to turn right to go up Bulli Pass during the morning and afternoon peak periods and how the closure will dramatically decrease safety for residents forced to use Lawrence Hargrave Drive.
  - b Although there is a fire brigade service at Scarborough most of the emergency services (Ambulance, Fire and Police) that help the Northern Suburbs of Wollongong are based in Helensburgh. The planned closures impact on response times and the effective delivery of those services.
  - c Consideration should be given to all of the Chemotherapy and Dialysis patients who cannot pick where they need to receive treatment and must have their treatment in Sutherland, Kogarah or other Sydney Hospitals and observe the distress the extra travel distances will add to the ordeal they go through each time they receive treatment.
  - d Ask that the Department of Health be consulted regarding the situation that some Northern Suburbs residents will endure unless alternate placement is provided at another hospital in Wollongong. Adding that these extra travel times could adversely affect the recovery of patients to their disease and the effects of treatment.
  - e The 24hr a day closure would add an extra 80 kms per day (400 kms a week) to the travel times experienced by many residents.
  - f There is going to be a huge financial cost forced onto Businesses from the lack of passing trade.
  - g There will be a massive disruption to families, with children, who need to travel north of Bald Hill to the schools at Helensburgh or the Sutherland Shire as well as the many children who travel south to the schools south of Bald Hill.
  - h Many of the Doctors and Dentists who care for the residents of the Northern Suburbs are based in Helensburgh.
  - i The seniors living facility at Stanwell Park relies on the medical services that the Medical providers in Helensburgh offer. Those medical professionals cannot be expected to care for their patients in a suitable time if they are forced to add an extra 80kms to their visit.
  - j The retail shopping at Helensburgh is heavily relied on by residents of the North. The parking at Thirroul is almost at capacity which makes its capability as the alternate shopping area difficult.
  - k Noting that many residents of the suburbs directly surrounding Thirroul use Helensburgh for day to day services.
  - l The suggestion that extra trains and buses can take up the need of extra usage is problematic because of the infrequency of the trains, especially on weekends, and the fact that buses would have to travel via Bulli Pass. Adding an extra 80 kms onto those bus trips.

- m Many of the trades-people and builders who do work in the Northern Suburbs either work in or commute to the Sutherland shire. This would add an extra 400 kms to their weekly travel times.
- n Council acknowledges the reasons pointed out within the information note contained in the RMS project website link but strongly encourages a re-investigation of possible options for opening Bald Hill to one way traffic at certain critical user times during the morning and evening to help alleviate the many problems listed above.
- o Suggest that the one way user times could be for one or two hours, in the morning and evening, and that the traffic allowed is from only the Northern Suburbs (Possibly north of Scarborough, and the 2508 Helensburgh area) and is limited to one lane up and down.
- p The two hour option might not be possible for the whole eight weeks but could be available for periods when feasible.
- q A clear scope of works be made publically available to assist the community's understanding of the project and the options available.
- r The community consultation and submissions period be extended for an extra four weeks to allow for more feedback."