



File: 04M5 Pt 5
Contact: Garry Humphrey 9218 6225

Mr Sam Haddad
Director-General
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Haddad,

Request for Modification to the Lane Cove Tunnel Approval

The Lane Cove Tunnel project is subject to the approval issued by the Minister for Planning on 3 December 2002 ("Approval"). The Approval was issued pursuant to Part 5 Division 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("EP&A Act").

As a result of amendments to the EP&A Act on 1 August 2005, and associated savings and transitional provisions, the Approval is now governed by Part 3A (Major Infrastructure and Other Projects) of the EP&A Act.

Pursuant to Section 75W of the EP&A Act, the Roads and Traffic Authority requests the Minister to modify the Approval for the Project in order to allow for the following changes to surface traffic arrangements:

First Five Months After Tunnel Opening

- ◆ Retention of the current traffic arrangements on Epping Road, including:
 - Tidal flow on Epping Road with three lanes provided in the AM and PM peaks;
 - The eastbound AM T3 transit lane on Epping Road between Delhi Road and Pittwater Road; and,
 - The T2 transit lane on Epping Road between Pittwater Road and the Pacific Highway.
- ◆ Opening of the widened Gore Hill Freeway to general traffic;
- ◆ Provision of pedestrian crossings at Longueville Road, Centennial Avenue and Tantalion Road to allow pedestrians to cross in a single uninterrupted movement;
- ◆ Provision of a staged pedestrian crossing of Epping Road at Mowbray Road West;
- ◆ Construction of the bus interchange and pedestrian bridge commencing on Tunnel opening, with subsequent removal of the Kimberley Avenue pedestrian overbridge, and
- ◆ Deferral of opening of the Pacific Highway eastbound link to Longueville Road and the Tunnel eastbound off-ramp link to the Gore Hill Freeway T2 transit lane.

Period from Five Months to Eleven Months After Tunnel Opening

- ◆ Construction of the remaining Stage 2 Works and some other works including:
 - The AM T3 transit lanes on Epping Road eastbound between Pittwater Road and Mowbray Road West;
 - The pedestrian/cycleway on the southern side of Epping Road including the Longueville Road ramp cycleway underpass;
 - Reduction of Epping Road to generally a minimum of four lanes (two in each direction); and,



- The right turning movements from Epping Road westbound to Centennial Avenue and Parklands Avenue.
- ◆ Provision of Bus priority where possible at bus stops and intersections along Epping Road;
- ◆ The bus lanes along Epping Road between Mowbray Road and the Pacific Highway would be operational from 10 months after Tunnel opening;
- ◆ Implementation of the T2 transit lanes in each direction on Gore Hill Freeway between Pacific Highway and Merrenburn Avenue would occur by 11 months after Tunnel opening; and,
- ◆ The Pacific Highway eastbound link to Longueville Road eastbound and the Tunnel eastbound off-ramp link to the Gore Hill Freeway T2 transit lane would be opened 11 months after Tunnel opening.

It is also proposed to:

- ◆ Allow for opening of the Tunnel, Falcon Street ramps and Gore Hill Freeway widening to traffic within a one month period rather than concurrently;
- ◆ Install feasible bus priority facilities for westbound traffic on Epping Road at Mowbray Road West, Pittwater Road and Delhi Road intersections in consultation with the PIC; and,
- ◆ Further investigate the location and design of a bus bay in Military Road east of Merlin Street north to the satisfaction of the Public Transport Committee.

This letter and the attached Report comprise the RTA's application for modification of the Approval under Section 75W of the EP&A Act. You will note that the attached Report includes:

- ◆ A detailed description of the Proposed Modifications;
- ◆ An environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Modifications, which includes an assessment of the impacts on operational traffic, conducted by an expert consultant; and,
- ◆ Recommended wording for the Conditions of Approval to reflect the proposed modifications.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 75W of the EP&A Act, the approval of the Minister for Planning is requested to modify the Approval as outlined in this application.

The RTA will place this application on its website and brief the following agencies:

- ◆ Department of Environment and Conservation;
- ◆ Department of Health;
- ◆ State Transit Authority; and,
- ◆ The Project's Public Transport Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact Garry Humphrey on 02 9218 6725 if you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Les Wielinga
Chief Executive

07.12.06