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Mr Kim Woodbury,
Group Manager Public Works,
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14 June 2010.

RE: Pittwater Road Upgrade

Dear Mr Woodbury,

The Society appreciates the opportunity to further discuss the proposals concerning the upgrade of Pittwater Road following the recent meeting on this matter. At this time we are concerned about the impact of the proposals on the bushland adjacent to Pittwater Road including the salt marsh. We are also concerned that the major purpose of the works is to provide a cycle way and that this is not part of a comprehensive Ryde cycle way strategy that has been subject to appropriate community consultation.

We urge that the Pittwater Road upgrade be placed on hold until there has been a comprehensive evaluation of the alternatives to the current upgrade proposals. Full community consultation about the cycle way strategy and about the impact of the proposals on the local bushland needs to occur and notifications of all directly affected residents along the Pittwater Rd corridor. In particular we see the need to adequately address the following matters.

Cycle way strategy for Ryde

- The strategy needs to provide for an integrated cycleway system for all users and not just the experienced cyclist
- The strategy needs to demonstrate that Pittwater Rd is actually an appropriate route for a cycleway as part of the network

Pedestrians

- There is the need for a safe pedestrian linkage between the Field of Mars Reserve and Buffalo Reserve
- More information is needed about the roundabout design. How does the current design facilitate bus access without compromising pedestrian safety
- All options regarding safety need to be considered including pedestrian lights and on road ripple strips
- Safe bus drop off points for access to both Buffalo Reserve and the Field of Mars Reserve are needed for students

Consultation

- There is the need for full community consultation including direct mail to all residents living along Pittwater Rd
- There is the need to publicise appropriately the whole project i.e. public exhibition

Funding

- The cost of the full upgrade needs to be published
- There needs to be a cost/benefit analysis including comparison between alternative proposals
- The source of the funding needs to be published
- The period of construction needs to be published

Road safety

- A widened road with a reduced tree scape will increase car speeds. Studies have demonstrated that trees along roads reduce speed and heat impacts

Natural areas and bushland

- There is the need to recognise incremental damage to salt marsh (which is an endangered ecological community)
- There is the need to recognise that the current proposals disrupt habitat corridors in an area adjoining a National Park and Wildlife Refuge. This proposal is not consistent with Council's attempt to restore habitat corridors especially the River to River project which aims to have better connectivity between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers
- There is the need to integrate with a stormwater plan for the whole project
- There is the need to reconsider the second bridge. The removal of mangroves is unacceptable
- There is the need to avoid cutting into rock faces. This will damage mature trees, reduce amenity and privacy,

Please let us know your response to these concerns. The Society looks forward to contributing to better outcomes for our natural environment and for cyclists and pedestrians.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Breen,
President.

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