

8 March 2019

Roads and Maritime Reference: SYD18/02017/01
Council ref: FP251

The General Manager
The Hills Shire Council
PO Box 7064
BAULKHAM HILLS BC NSW 2153

Attention: Alicia Iori

Dear Sir/Madam,

EXHIBITION OF DRAFT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN NO. 17— CASTLE HILL NORTH

Reference is made to Council's correspondence dated 6 December 2018, regarding the abovementioned proposal which was referred to Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) for comment. Roads and Maritime appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the contributions plan.

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the Draft Contributions Plan No.17 – Castle Hill North and notes that in section 3.3 Transport and Pedestrian Facilities, the following infrastructure is proposed;

- Roundabout at Carramarr Road/Castle Street,
- Roundabout at Gilham Street/Carramarr Road,
- Roundabout at Gilham Street/Old Castle Hill Road, and
- Roundabout at Old Castle Hill Road/ Garthowen Crescent.

Roads and Maritime does not raise any objection to the proposed roundabouts.

Roads and Maritime also notes that draft Contributions Plan No.17 proposes to realign the intersection of McMullen Avenue and Old Northern Road with Brisbane Road to form a four way intersection. Roads and Maritime has undertaken SIDRA traffic modelling for the intersection which indicates that the four way proposal will have a substantial impact on the operation of the intersection by 2021. The table below provides a comparison of the change in the Level of Service (LOS) for both the AM and PM peak periods of the existing base case T intersection and the four way proposal (detailed outputs are provided at **Attachment A**).

Intersection Layout	BASE				2021			
	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	LOS	Delay (s)	LOS	Delay (s)	LOS	Delay (s)	LOS	Delay (s)
Base (existing T intersection)	C	39	C	36	C	35	C	33
Proposed four way intersection	D	55	D	49	F	75	E	64

In the preparation of the 2021 model the following assumptions were made;

- model includes known growth factors in Roads and Maritime's Strategic Traffic Forecasting Model,

- mode shift assumptions associated with the metro station as outlined by TfNSW,
- residential development adjoining Terminus Road and Old Northern Road.

The model can be considered to underestimate the impacts of the four way proposal as it does not include the new residential towers on Old Castle Hill/Pennant St corner that are currently under construction nor the proposed growth for Castle Hill Structure Plan Precinct. Inclusion of the traffic generated by these developments/proposals will further decrease the LOS and increase delays.

It is important to note that the model indicates that the degree of saturation (DOS) for some movements is above 1.0 which means that the movements are at capacity and any increase in traffic will create significant delays.

As the indicative traffic modelling shows a reduction in the level of service for the intersection, Roads and Maritime cannot support the proposal to realign the intersection of McMullen Avenue and Old Northern Road to create the four way intersection with Brisbane Road. Subsequently Roads and Maritime requests Council to remove this project from the Contributions Plan No.17 – Castle Hill North. Council is reminded that under Section 87 of the *Roads Act 1993*, the construction of traffic control signals may not be carried out without the consent of Roads and Maritime.

Furthermore, Roads and Maritime considers that a comprehensive traffic and transport study should be undertaken to holistically consider the impacts of uplift in the Castle Hill Structure Plan Precinct (which includes Castle Hill North precinct) and inform an infrastructure schedule, prior to the finalisation of the contribution plan. As Council would be aware a working group has been established in regard to the Castle Hill Structure Plan. The working group consists of representatives from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Roads and Maritime and Council.

As agreed by the working group, a precinct wide cumulative traffic and transport study will be undertaken with the intent of analysing the future development uplift within Castle Hill area and identifying the supporting road/transport infrastructure that will be required to support the uplift. It is understood that the project brief outlining the scope of the study is currently being drafted with the view to commence the study in the coming weeks.

Considering that the traffic and transport study will soon commence to determine the infrastructure schedule for Castle Hill Structure Plan, consideration should be given to postponing the finalisation of the Contributions Plan No.17 – Castle Hill North until the abovementioned study is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the subject planning proposal. Should you have any questions or further enquiries in relation to this matter, Nav Prasad would be pleased to take your call on [REDACTED] or e: development.sydney@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Davis
A/Senior Manager Strategic Land Use
Sydney Planning, Sydney Division