



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180
Newport Beach NSW 2106
President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102
Hon. Secretary - (wendydunnet@gmail.com) 0418 161 074
Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

www.newport.org.au

22nd June 2017

The Hon Rob Stokes
Minister for Education
NSW State Government
1725 Pittwater Road
MONA VALE NSW 2103

Dear Rob,

Re Proposed B-Line extension to Newport

The executive of the Newport Residents Association (NRA) met with the B-Line project team last Wednesday last week 14th June whereby the NRA was informed of various options for terminating and turning 100 busses a day around in Newport. The options included three permanent scenarios each of which would have a significant impact on either the Newport Surf Club car park or on the shopping centre Bramley Lane car park. The project team also informed us of two interim options they were considering to allow the B-Line to commence at the end of this year.

Following this meeting which caused great alarm to the NRA executive we invited the Executives of both the Newport Surf Club and the Newport Chamber of Commerce and any interested members of those two organisation plus the full membership of the NRA and any other interested resident of Newport to our NRA meeting this last Tuesday evening the 20th of June 2017 to discuss the proposals.

The meeting room at the Newport Community Centre was packed to overflowing and standing room only.

At the conclusion of the meeting the following motion was proposed from the floor.

RESOLUTION CARRIED

That this meeting resolves that no B-Line service is extended to terminate in the village of Newport and that it be terminated at the town centre of Mona Vale which is at the junction of major roads to and from Pittwater.

Furthermore, this decision is to be conveyed to all pertinent Members of Parliament, department heads and Council executives who are involved in B-Line terminus decisions and it is to be supported by the reasons for this community's requirement for this action.

This resolution was carried by all at the meeting with only three abstentions.

“The following points were made at the meeting by the President of the Newport Surf Club;

- *that the reduction in available car parking after initiating a bus turning circle, layover parking for three buses, associated built facilities that we understand are necessary for the proposal will substantially reduce the capacity and effectiveness of the car park for the community, particularly in summer.*
- *that proposing such significant bus infrastructure on the absolute beach front land seems completely inappropriate for the local beachside environment and people that use the car park for the coastal walk, visiting the beach, netball training etc.*
- *that the traffic movement required to turn the volume of buses suggested into the beach car park across Barrenjoey Road will be problematic.*

The President of the Chamber of Commerce spoke about the concerns they have for the Surf Club car-park, the amenity of Newport and the effect it may have on their businesses.

The NRA expressed their concerns in a letter to the Northern Beaches Council dated 23 **June 2016** covering those concerns, which still remain relevant, for the potential impact on residential streets, the Surf Club, the traffic issues, the impact of a dedicated bus lane (now or in the future) on the businesses of Newport and the current Streetscape of Newport. A copy of that letter is attached.

The information supplied to us from the B-Line project team that the failure to provide 150 commuter parking spots in Mona Vale (the Town Centre and junction of major roads for the area) whereby they only achieved 74 spots and therefore needed to look to the Newport surf club to find the other 76 spots we find as a very inappropriate reason to move the terminus to Newport.

We also have also met with the B-Line project team to discuss the new service timetable and make the following comments;

- The current service proposals have a significant reduction in through services to the city from the villages to the north of Newport, meaning that most services will require changing buses along the route – a backward step not an improvement.
- The community consultation re these services was very poor despite the B-Line project team denials
- The decision to move much of the bus terminus to Newport was not done at a project level (unsatisfactory finger pointing going on) nor has it factored in the significant aspect of attempting to turn around 100 busses a day in Newport and the effect that would have on the Village.

Whilst having a bus service leaving every 10 minutes (instead of 15 minutes) from Newport can be flagged as an improvement to bus services we don't believe the permanent impact on the Village of Newport can be justified. There are other options, including increased services, which have not been considered and that would include allowing some of the B-Line busses to replace the current ones from Palm Beach and Avalon.

We request that the Government immediately rethink these proposals for the B-Line to Newport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light green rectangular background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large loop, followed by a horizontal line, and ending with a smaller loop.

Gavin Butler
President.

Cc Newport Surf Club
Newport Chamber of Commerce
Mr Dick Persson, Administrator Northern Beaches Council



Attachment

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23rd June 2016

Mr Dick Persson,
Administrator
Northern Beaches Council
725 Pittwater Road,
Dee Why NSW 2099

Dear Mr Persson,

Re Proposal for extending the B-Line bus service to Newport

The Newport Residents Association at its monthly meeting held this week on Tuesday 21st June considered the above proposal based on the information it had deduced from various reports and from discussions with the office of the Hon Rob Stokes.

The meeting unanimously voted to reject this proposal for the following reasons;

- The impact on the residential streets to allow the volume of busses (which we understand are to run every 10 minutes at the peak times) to be able to turn around to make the southern journey.
- Should the busses instead of using the residential streets use a modified surf club car park to turn we believe the permanent impact on the surf club car park for access and egress could not be justified.
- Any egress from the surf club car park, if it was to be considered, would need to be at the northern end which would make it too close to the single lane portion and bends coming down the hill from Avalon on Barrenjoey Road.
- The potential impact of a dedicated bus lane to the Barrenjoey road businesses would be catastrophic and also potentially have an impact on village life.
- The current street scape of Barrenjoey Road in the village area has been extremely well upgraded to fit in with the Pittwater Connected Village ideals and it would need to be potentially destroyed to make way for permanent bus lanes.

In summary the members of the Newport Residents Association are unaware of where the push to extend the B-Line service to Newport is coming from and do not believe there has been any consultation on the benefits or otherwise of this proposal with the residents of Newport.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler
President

Cc Hon Rob Stokes