



POSITION PAPER

PROPOSED F6 MOTORWAY EXTENSION

BACKGROUND

In June and July, 2017 it was reported in the media that the NSW Government was considering acquiring 60 hectares of the Royal National Park for a proposed extension of the F6 motorway between Sydney and the Illawarra. It was also reported that an internal government report indicated that an alternative to the Royal National Park route was the acquisition and bulldozing of about 460 houses and 40 commercial properties between Loftus and Waterfall at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. The total cost of the proposed F6 extension was reported to be \$18 billion.

A Transport for NSW memo earlier released under the Public Access Act indicated that an alternative cheaper proposal (\$6 billion) would cut the time taken to travel from Sydney to Wollongong by train from 90 minutes to 65 minutes.

The Royal National Park is listed on the National Trust Register and the National Heritage List and is being nominated for listing on the World Heritage List.

On the route of the F6 extension is the Gwawley Bay Landscape Conservation Area listed on the National Trust Register in 2002. This contains the remnants of the 1870s 48 kilometres of the "French Method" of oyster cultivation constructed by Chinese workers from the goldfields which laid the foundations for the establishment of the NSW oyster industry. The area also contains the largest known population of the Narrow-leaf Sedge (*Gahnia filum*), rare in the Sydney Region.

If the motorway extension were built in a tunnel from St Peters to the southern end of Sans Souci it would then allow 64 hectares of road reservation to be sold and redeveloped. This road reservation has formed a vital open space corridor through these suburbs for more than sixty years.

NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

In accordance with its February 2014 Policy on the Heritage Impacts of Urban Motorways the Trust –

- Opposes the loss of public parklands along the F6 motorway extension route, particularly any land within the World Heritage nominated Royal National Park and the green corridor from St Peters to southern Sans Souci.
- Opposes the loss of the Gwawley Bay Landscape Conservation Area
- Calls for the abandonment of the F6 Motorway Extension and the adoption of the much less costly, more effective and less environmentally damaging rail travel option.

ACTION TO PROMOTE THE TRUST'S POSITION

The Trust will promote its views on this issue in the media and with the public and the Federal and NSW governments.