



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **REPORT TABLED – IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
5 DECEMBER 2022**

The Upper House Public Works Committee today released its report on the impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, commented: 'This inquiry examined government plans to build two under-harbour motorways in Sydney—the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

'These are large projects, with large price tags, and significant impact on communities they interact with. The community responded strongly to the committee's inquiry, contributing more than 575 submissions, with the vast majority opposed to the projects.'

Mr Mookhey continued, 'The committee identified various issues with the planning and justification of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link, including that the government failed to adequately consider public transport options, that procurement processes led to delays and extra costs, and that there was a lack of transparency regarding project planning.

The committee makes various recommendations to improve transparency around the projects, noting the importance of properly informing the public ahead of the March 2023 election.'

'Importantly, the committee recommends the government not proceed with Beaches Link, as there has not been an adequate explanation of what its benefits and costs are for the NSW community.

'The committee also makes several recommendations on the impacts of the Projects on air and water quality, and recommendations on managing the impacts of the Projects on three Sydney regions that would be directly affected by construction and operation—the Inner West, Lower North Shore and Northern Beaches.'

The Chair concluded, 'I note that at the time of writing enabling works for the Western Harbour Tunnel have begun, and that the government has recently announced major changes to the way the Tunnel itself is constructed. I put on record my hope that the recommendations of this inquiry and the contributions of its stakeholders are appropriately considered in any decisions the government makes.'

Information about the inquiry, including the committee's report, is available on the committee's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2767>

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, on 9230 2736*