

**Submission  
No 2**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR  
TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK**

**Name:** Mr Edward Re

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I object to this project. The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link should be stopped. A rail line from Chatswood to Dee Why should be built instead. This project does not have a solid business case. A comparable project in Victoria, the East West link, was found to have a CBR of about 40 cents. That is, for each dollar spent, we would lose 60 cents. Time savings never eventuate. Induced demand causes all roads to be heavily congested, independently of population increases. Thus justifying roads on the basis of time savings is always flawed. For example, the M2 widening cost \$500 million, traffic was just as bad within 2 years. Building big urban roads in city centres had been abandoned by most cities. I have been following this issue for 10 years and have not seen an independent Professor or PhD qualified person who endorsed big road construction as a solution to congestion. There are no roads that flow freely. It patently does not work. Every dollar spent expanding roads adds congestion, while spending on alternatives to driving can add zero congestion. Adding roads does the opposite of what they say. We should build a train line instead. This provides mobility with zero added congestion. People from all economic groups can afford to take public transport and theoretical can be connected to jobs along the Sydney-North Sydney-Chatswood-Macquarie Park economic arc via existing rail links. Low cost access to employment will have a hugely beneficial effect on the economy. Sucking billions out of the community via tolls will have a detrimental effect. The Northern Beaches already has 16 lanes of road accessing it. Why are we adding more? Where are the alternatives? People cannot enter or exit without burning oil or buying an expensive electric car, with its heavy embedded environmental cost of construction. If the majority must have 1 to 2 tonnes of glass and steel to go about their daily chores then our climate is in serious trouble. We are in the middle of a climate emergency. Extra road capacity adds extra vehicle kilometres in proportion to added road area. This solution is surely the worst outcome possible for greenhouse gas emissions as most of the traffic at present will be cars. An electric train can be run on renewables and can last decades. It would generate a tiny fraction of the total emissions produced by enforced car ownership that comes with a roads only solution, even if we do stay with coal fired electricity. Cities that tried to build their way out of congestion with roads, like Los Angeles have failed. Even LA is building a metro. Cities like San Francisco, Paris or Berlin with excellent public transport and bike lanes are beautiful are easy to get around, despite having millions in population. I urge you to cancel the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link. Build rail instead.

Yours sincerely

Edward Re