

**Submission
No 24**

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

Name: Ms Ailish Doherty

Date Received: 3 May 2021

I object to the building of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Northern Beaches Link due to the following reasons:

1) The project is not financially viable

An original proposed cost of \$14 billion is prohibitive. When one considers the budget 'blowout' of prior projects including the Sydney Light Rail and the second airport at Badgery's Creek the estimated cost of the development is even more absurd. The lack of economic or business study's into this project serves only to heighten concern and opposition to this project.

2) The Northern Beaches Tunnel is unnecessary and illogical considering its population density. The Northern Beaches only has a population of approximately 250,000 people. The fact it is an established area with geography that limits mass population expansion means this level of investment in road infrastructure is absurd. The area has previously been deemed to not have a population density sufficient for heavy rail so how is it deserving of a tunnel of this size and expense?

3) The state government has chosen to not consult local communities regarding their infrastructure and transport preferences.

Alternate transport options were promised to communities of the North Shore in 2014 but were never delivered. If the State Government is so heavily committed to providing improved transport infrastructure in this area then a proposal of all forms of transport including public transport should have been put forward for community consultation.

4) Other parts of the state particularly Western Sydney are in much greater need of infrastructure. Both the Western Harbour Tunnel and Northern Beaches Link are in areas with longstanding existing infrastructure. Considering the lack of basic infrastructure - housing, schools, hospitals - in new and developing regions of Western Sydney and fire/flood-damaged communities throughout NSW the allocation of this amount of funding is fundamentally unfair and illogical. Allocation of these funds to primarily wealthy communities will serve to only foster distrust in the current Liberal State Government in outer suburban and rural areas.