

**Submission
No 28**

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

Name: Mr Robert Spies

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I am opposed to the closure of the Ernest Street onramp and exit ramp to/from the Harbour Bridge to local traffic on Ernest Street. This restricts traffic currently using Ernest street to having access only to and from the Harbour tunnel. The ability of traffic north of Military road to access the Harbour Bridge will be virtually impossible as making a right hand turn onto Military Road to access the Harbour bridge is almost impossible with No Right Turn restrictions at Winnie Street for 8 hours a day and the feasibility of making a legal or safe right hand turn from Ben Boyd is virtually impossible. I have observed recently this intersection in and outside peak periods and found only 1,2 or 3 are able to make a right hand turn at each traffic light change and all are doing so on the red light. Even if it was possible the diversion of more traffic onto Military road from Ernest Street to access the Harbour Bridge is a backward step and certainly Detrimental to current users rather than an " Upgrade" as advertised. 2 The proposal that is being discussed to make current users of the Harbour Bridge and the Harbour Tunnel to continue to pay Tolls after 80 years and 30 Years respectively A of tolls to pay for the western Harbour tunnel and the Spit tunnel is contrary to the "User Pay Principle " of collecting Tolls. As you are aware the Bridge was paid off when the 50 Year loan to the Bank of England in 1982. The following 30 years to 2022 on both the Bridge and Tunnel more than paid for the Tunnel. Only the users of the Spit and Western harbour tunnels and toll ways should fund the works. To take away the Ernest access access to the Bridge from current users is seriously detrimental to local current users. The proposal contemplated to place a new toll for North bound traffic on the Bridge and Tunnel is a disgrace and ignores history that the North bound tolls were removed to speed traffic but were more than compensated by increasing the toll of 20 cents each way with a \$1 toll for south bound traffic as it was more than paying in advance for the return trip.