

Submission
No 42

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

Name: Mrs Deborah Gray

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SUBMISSION TO PARLIMENTRY INQUIRY INTO THE BEACHES LINK TUNNEL PROJECT

Firstly I would like to say that I strongly OBJECT to the building of this tunnel. There are too many details to this project that are not correct. Any advantages to the community are far outweighed by the disadvantages. I cannot see how having unfiltered smoke stakes (that overseas would be filtered) is right in this day and age, the impact on local schools and children is criminal, it makes me very sad to think we could do this our future generations that are going to school and living in this area, let alone the whole communities health! I'd like to address the following issues.

POLLUTION:-

I have already mentioned this, but Health experts agree that the pollution from traffic exhaust from these unfiltered smoke stakes cause serious health risks. Causing such diseases as asthma, emphysema & cancer! We have many local schools in our area such as Balgowlah Nth Public School, Balgowlah Boys High School, Seaforth Public School, St Ceclias's School and many more pre schools that will be effected by these unfiltered smoke stakes.

IMPACT OF 7 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION -

The impact to our local streets cannot be imagined I don't think, I have lived in this area for my whole life (68 years) I've never wanted to move from the area because it is a beautiful place to live with the trees and wildlife we have in the area, and although my street has become a rat run, I can see it becoming worse with the trucks using it that are going to the Kirkwood St Site, they say the trucks wouldn't be using local streets but that's easy to say now, and its human nature if there is a quicker way the trucks will use it, endangering the children in our area that walk to school now. The noise and dust they will create, I saw something about residents being offered double glazing on windows, that doesn't give me a lot of confidence about the noise impact on the community. Not to mention the parking for the workers so many more cars in our streets. They say this will be 5 - 7 years but these things always go over the time predicted.

IMPACT OF TUNNELING

Our community will have to live through 5 - 7 years of tunnelling, which will be construction vibration levels above human comfort criteria & potential for property damage. This can go on for 24 hrs so that alone will have an impact on the community, I don't know how my husband & I will cope with that, I'm sure something like that is going to have an impact on our health, along with others. We are now retired and were looking forward to a quiet life!

IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Construction sites at Balgowlah Golf Course and Seaforth, Wakehurst Parkway will involve the removal of many trees, which our environment cannot afford to loose, it will impact on the flora and fauna in the area. Numerous threatened species will be effected including Eastern Pigmy possums and Grey headed Flying Fox. The road

will be an eyesore to what we have now. And the effect it will have on Manly Dam and Burnt Bridge Creek, I'm sure we won't know until its too late. Also concerns me the impact this will have on the harbour, places like Clontarf Beach, which our family & friends us, and the Spit. Its been such a lovely place to live, being able to do bush walks in the area, the birdlife that is here at the moment, I'm sure won't be the same. I grew up playing in the bushland around me here and its will be ashame for future generations to miss out on that!

I think that other options need to be explored rather than doing this tunnel that is going to cost so much money for not a lot of benefit to traffic, even since this project was started there has been the B line Bus routes started (which works so well, that they started the DY to Chatswood B Line) that hasn't been taken into account, as well as the number of people working from home these days, due to COVID wether we will ever get back to the number of people travelling to work will remain to be seen. There just has to be a better way, and that's what we should be spending this money on finding that better way!

Deborah Gray