

**Submission  
No 55**

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

**Name:** Mr David James

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I made submission to Mr Mike Baird, who was Premier at the time, proposing that two single lane tunnels, one for northward flow and one for southern flow, each be bored from and to Spit Hill, on grade, in a straight line to the Harbour Bridge abutments for the sole purpose of utilising electric-drive passenger buses for transporting Northern Beaches residents to and from the city.

I believe there was then, and still remains, a much greater public benefit to be gained than the current and expensive 6 lane Northern Beaches Tunnel, by diverting to such a solution (which also in time could be further extended northward under , say Burnt Bridge Creek outlet to Manly Vale and other areas such as Newport Hill and etc)

Mr Baird responded sympathetically in principle to my suggestion but stated that they were too far down the track with the B1 proposals (which I must say are a great success) but that it might be looked at in the future.

Given the environmental and heavy financial outlay concerns that are now raised regarding adverse impacts of the NB Tunnel, during and after construction, as it is now proposed to be built, I believe that now it is time and not too late, to return to the drawing board for another look at my proposal which I believe would provide a much better outcome in terms of public benefit and cost reductions as well as a providing a viable and futuristic scheme of public transport electric drive buses rather than a six lanes of road traffic as is proposed.

David James OAM