

**Submission
No 77**

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

Name: Ms Angelika Treichler

Date Received: 7 June 2021

Re Beaches Link Tunnel: OBJECTION

Dear Committee,

thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to make this submission.

I used to be the coordinator of the Little Penguin Wardens in Manly for 11 years, thus, I will be concentrating on the impact the tunnel would be having on the Marine Environment in Sydney Harbour, as well as on Sydney's transport infrastructure.

The seven years of construction activities concern me deeply for the following reason:

The last remaining Eudyptula Minor breeding colony of NSW is already greatly diminished by human activity such as over-development, domestic animal predation and boating. The few couples left depend on the foraging and breeding grounds around Sydney Harbour (not in the open ocean) since rearing their chicks can only happen in protected bays. The risk of increased sediment disturbance and turbidity would spread toxins such as mercury and pesticides amongst the seagrass patches along the shallow harbour bays where the penguins forage for small marine creatures, special food for their chicks. The same applies to Sydney's famous White's Seahorses who share the seagrass patches with the penguins.

Our precious bush environment would also drastically suffer from this development for which I do not see any reason: Why is Sydney's traffic so bad we have to build more roads and tunnels to accommodate a completely outdated mode of transport, private cars? Because this government has ignored the need for Public Transport. The plan to give car traffic even more priority will bring on even more traffic jams. The plan, as I understand it, does not even include a lane for buses. However, it does include the widening of roads such as Wakehurst Parkway which would destroy precious habitat for the pygmy possum and the grey headed flying fox, as well as threaten thousand of years old Indigenous rock carvings (by vibration damage).

What about human beings who would have to suffer the effects of pollution at the tunnel's portal points and would have to swim in toxic seawater (from the disturbed sediments) around the areas of the Spit, Clontarf, Beauty Point and Sailors Bay, all places for families to enjoy their environment. Residents around Seaforth and Balgowlah could also be impacted by 'rat-runs' in the vicinity of jammed main roads.

The whole project does not make sense in a time when Climate Change is becoming more dangerous and we ought to be doing everything to reduce emissions such as from burning fossil fuels, especially our extra dirty Diesel.

I implore you to reject this destructive and totally unnecessary project outright, because, even with the most protective caveats and conditions, the above-mentioned damages are unavoidable, especially during the construction seven years of construction.

Angelika Treichler