

**Submission
No 106**

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

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The Northern Beaches tunnel project has been devised to alleviate traffic congestion to and from the Northern beaches. The plan has many statistics with regard to future traffic flow, exhaust fume regulation and effects on the environment. It has been shown by studies of similar projects throughout the world that many of the stated facts in the EIS are either misquoted, flawed or plainly wrong. On this basis I object to the project. The following issues with the plan indicate the infeasibility of the project. 1. The tunnel will not be able to carry the predicted traffic due to poor access and insufficient ability to feed into each end of the tunnel. 2. There are only two exhaust stacks, one at each end, and no specialised filtering of traffic fumes which include exhaust, oil and petrol leaks, degrading road material and rubber. 3. The Balgowlah stack is at the bottom of the valley and will exhaust onto no less than 5 schools within a 2km radius, plus numerous child care centres. 4. The proposed use of the Balgowlah Golf Course as a construction site and then partial return as parkland will affect Balgowlah Boys High in particular for at least six years. 5. Less public land will result from the project as well as displacement of at least 500 golfers and other users of the Balgowlah Golf Course. Where do these people go when all other public courses on the peninsula are full. 6. This is a short term fix since even the project admits the Spitt Bridge will be back to capacity within 5 years. 7. Alternatives such as linking light rail to Chatswood have never been open for public discussion. 8. Where are the risk assessments for fire, flood and other disasters that may occur. All of these have occurred in tunnels overseas. 9. Where is the published business plan indicating the viability of the project? 10. The planned exit point in Balgowlah creates a huge bottleneck for traffic continuing north, eastbound traffic trying to cross southbound traffic or trying to get out of the tunnel to return south to Seaford or elsewhere. 8. 3