

**Submission
No 128**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

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I'm sure this has been written many times before, but I'll write it again. Manly Dam isn't just a nothing piece of land with no value, it holds a special place for all locals in the area, and the beaches as a whole. There are not many places left in urban areas where such a diversity of life can be found on our door steps. As an example, last night I did a Coucill organised night walk around the Dam, not only did we see Ring Tailed possums, but Powerful Owls, Nightjars, Swamp Wallabies, Grey Headed Flying Fox's, but also Black Flying Foxs, a species not seen here in over 20 years. There a species of gum right beside the ring road that are not found outside of the Northern Beaches! On the opposite side to the car park area, there are colony's of Terrestrial Orchids of varying species, some endangered. The tiny Red Crowned Toadlet has a small colony struggling to hold on. This is just a very very small slice of the life found around the Dam, and all right in the door step over a populace area. We cannot afford to loose this special place, or for that matter any others. We as a country have an appalling track record of destruction, it's time we changed that.

Thank you