

**Submission  
No 135**

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

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I believe the negative environmental impacts of this tunnel development (both during and after the construction phase) far exceed any potential gains through improved traffic flow. Also, many studies have shown any improvements to traffic flow are quickly eroded by more people choosing to travel by car once the new roads/tunnels are in place. Further, a tunnel will just encourage more people to drive to the northern beaches, and subsequently more development will occur due to the improved accessibility, once again increasing the amount of traffic and negating any benefits of the tunnel construction. Once gone, our precious natural places cannot be replaced, and the remaining areas will be significantly degraded. Manly Dam in particular is a significant ecological and recreational asset to the Northern Beaches, and needs to be protected in its entirety. The tunnel development should not go ahead; instead we need to vastly improve and strengthen our public transport options and reduce our reliance on private cars