

Submission
No 136

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 12 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

We live in Balgowlah, and very close to the entrance of the Beaches Link. We reviewed the EIS and have grave concerns about the environmental, health and noise impacts from the project, particularly..

- The dredging of Middle Harbour, destroying the beautiful and healthy natural environment of our waterways and killing the marine life that live in it
- Devastating impacts to nearby Manly Dam and the native species that live in and around where the construction works will occur, undoubtedly resulting in habitat destruction and polluted waterways
- The heightened air pollution in our community with anticipated increased traffic volumes, especially a serious concern for school kids in Balgowlah, Seaforth and Manly Vale
- The noise pollution for the entirety of the project (estimated to be about 10 years or so?)
- Lack of justification to build a road tunnel when traffic volumes are high during peak hours only (normal anywhere in Sydney), and the continual dependency that Northern Beaches residents and workers would have on their cars
- Whereas other countries are looking to reduce their carbon footprint - we are doing the exact opposite (road tunnel means more dependency on cars and also there are currently no incentives to purchase low / non polluting vehicles)
- The road tunnel is a toll road, and usable for those who can afford it - meaning many disadvantaged members in society would not be able to use it and also many drivers will choose to continue to use the "free" old roads anyway as these do not incur a toll fee

And many more reasons.

Northern Beaches have suffered from a lack of a good public transport network for a very long time. State Government recently changed the local bus timetables without consulting the community, resulting in longer commute times and more bus transfers. Residents raised this issue with the Northern Beaches Council. Ask State Government how many years it took to implement an express service like the B-line. The B-line has been successful and we finally have an express service between Dee Why and Chatswood (a bus trip that used to take one hour is now 30 mins on the X160). Another potential express connection can be run from Manly / Balgowlah to St Leonards. Instead, we suffer on the overpacked and slow 144. The traffic is particularly bad between Neutral Bay and Mosman (Spit Junction) - why not a metro stop each connecting to North Sydney or Crows Nest / St Leonards? Providing better public transport options mean that Northern Beaches residents would not have to be as dependent on their cars and their commute times would be cut in half - making it a much more desirable option to get around. There have been lots of studies and evidence that trains and buses can move a lot more people than single occupant cars can (and what we really need are incentives to get people out of their single occupant cars!)

The community demands that the State Government provides a much better, more accessible and comprehensive public transport network for the Northern Beaches - not more toll roads and the irreversible destruction of our environment, health and local community!