

Submission
No 174

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

15 June, 2021

To: The Parliamentary Inquiry

Re: Objection to the Western Harbour Tunnel

Dear Chair

I write in strong objection to the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) for the following reasons:

This is a very costly project and will result in another toll road and another tax for NSW residents.

Much of the drilling and excavation will potentially damage residents homes as according to the proposed plans, will be very shallow in places.

Public transport was not considered appropriately as part of the overall plan. This is key to a lower emissions future as it is more sustainable to have less cars on the roads.

The environmental impact statement and subsequent submissions report in response to community comments essentially ignored public concerns about disturbing contaminated sediments. These concerns are justified as shown in the Sydney Morning Herald article. More so, the data on the contaminants was hidden from the community in a confidential report from 2017. The sediment of the harbour is well known to be toxic and sites associated with the WHT project are highly toxic.

The proponents have been secretive and not transparent on the issue of sediment contaminants. Shallow silt curtain will not contain the sediment as this is a very active part of the harbour with respect to water movement.

The risk assessment and measures to address risk do not mention contaminants released into the water which may poison the harbour locally and well beyond the construction sited. Since the clean up of the harbour for the Olympic we have seen great improvement of the water quality and this has brought back diverse marine life. This project will reverse this gain.

Damage to houses as some parts of the tunnelling is quite shallow.

I trust for the reasons outlined more environmental consideration is undertaken prior to further development of this project.