

**Submission
No 179**

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

Name: Mrs Jemma Armstrong

Date Received: 15 June 2021

I strongly object to this project, with numerous reasons:

- It has been shown repeatedly that building tunnels encourages more vehicles on to the roads. We should be giving reasons for people not to get into their cars, not creating reasons to use them. Funneling more vehicles into tunnels only serves to create bottle necks at the Gore Hill Freeway and city entrances. Peak hour traffic already gets stuck coming off the Harbour Bridge. This tunnel does not make adequate allowances to encourage public transport
- The proximity of several schools to unfiltered smoke stacks is a huge concern, children are especially vulnerable to fine particle emissions.
- The huge number of trucks that will be using suburban roads will create a massive toll on local streets and residents.
- The huge problem with toxic particles surfacing in the water around Middle Harbour due to dredging. I feel this has not adequately been addressed. We face up to 6 years of poorly impacted water quality meaning very popular swimming spots such as Clontarf will be unusable for swimming and water sports. Also, I believe the impact on marine life has not been adequately considered.
- The destruction of unique ecosystems that are home to many animals and greatly loved by the communities – Burnt Bridge Creek and Flat Rock Gully for example.
- I strongly disagree with the forced acquisition of properties and the distress this causes families.
- The previous reporting on saved time on commutes is out of date and does not take into consideration the huge impact Covid has had on the number of people working from home. This is a change that will stay for many people.

I implore you to take into consideration the number of local communities who are strongly against the tunnel being built.