

Submission  
No 190

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 15 June 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

15 June 2021

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC

Chair

Public Works Committee

NSW Legislative Council

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

### **Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link**

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to an inquiry regarding these concerning projects. I strongly object to the Western Harbour Tunnel (including the Warringah Freeway Upgrade) and Beaches Link (including the Gore Hill extension) projects and urge you to recommend that the NSW Government abandon these plans immediately.

I am a resident of Artarmon and have lived here for 17 years. I walk my dogs daily in Flat Rock Creek Reserve and regularly travel throughout the lower north shore suburbs as part of my working day. The loss of green space, unfiltered pollution stacks and other potential environmental impacts concern me highly. I would prefer to see a sustainable, well planned, public transport solution provided instead of another roadway without adequate long term public transport provided.

I have previously submitted a detailed submission/ detailed submissions as to why I object to these

projects.

My concerns include:

1. Inadequate provision of a business case for this project for the public to review This is a major infrastructure project with an estimated significant cost to the NSW public. A transparent viewing of the business case to the public is necessary(b) the adequacy of the consideration of alternative options,
2. A need for further public transport options to be thoroughly considered. At this time, alternative options have not been comprehensively scoped or compared to a toll road tunnel option. It is also important to address the congestion issues via assessing options such as a dedicated mass transit solution- light rail, metro or rail.
3. The extent to which changes in population growth, work and travel patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on the original cost benefit ratio.

I am concerned that the travel patterns amongst Sydney residents will change as a long term response to the pandemic. Further research into the impact of this on achieving the goals of this project is relevant.

3. The impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems.

There will be impact on many sensitive harbourside site and also those in impacted suburbs including Flat Rock Gully, Balls Head/ Berry's Bay and the Coal Loader, Cammeray Green Spaces,

Middle Harbour, and Manly Dam. There will be significant short term and long-term impact/recovery at the Flat Rock Reserve site. This is a beautiful local bush and green space. It is key in our urban environment to maintain as many green and bush spaces as we can for community use. On the other site mentioned above there will be heavy tree losses, negative impacts on include marine life, diminished air quality, contamination risks, biodiversity offsets and an overall increase in emissions. The Western Harbour and Beaches Link tunnels will produce more emissions than the Southwest Metro (approx. same distance) before adding cars and their impact. The construction of such a large scale project will via lighting, emergency systems, ventilation fans and the concrete itself all contributes to a higher emissions profile.

5. The impact of the project on nearby public sites, especially Flat Rock Reserve/Dive site.

Flat Rock Gully Dive Site is a site of (Aboriginal heritage. It is also a contaminated tip area, and the impact and safety of the surrounding residents during the operation of the dive site is very concerning. This site is also a major water catchment area and flood zone, and as a dive site

competes with massive sewage tunnel. The flow of possibly contaminated water into feeds out to Tunks Park and Middle Harbour is a point of possible environmental concern. The major loss of trees will impact on the local fauna, especially birdlife, including powerful owls and other species.

I would like to have my name suppressed but want to voice great concern about the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches link.

Yours Sincerely,