

Submission
No 207

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

A Plea for Flat Rock Gully.

As a student of Willoughby I am strongly opposed to the plans for destruction of the environment for the gain of the proposed Northern Beaches tunnel.

The proposed plans for destruction of either the baseball diamond or the bushland will be harmful to the environment and the community.

I have pleasant memories of watching people use the baseball diamond, not necessarily for playing baseball but for activities they enjoyed every Saturday morning when I was meant to be watching my sister's netball practice. On other occasions I would go for a walk with a sketchbook marking out sections of the bushwalk on my handmade map, making notes of what plants I would find and where. I still have those sketches despite not going to a netball game in three years.

That was personal experience as to why I think we should be protecting Flat Rock.

Here is a more education-oriented response.

Flat Rock Gully and its microrainforest is one of the two ecosystems that Willoughby Girls High School students focus on in the HSC. Its proximity to the school makes it convenient for field work, its unusual ecosystem makes it interesting to study and the fact that not many people apart from the ones in Willoughby know of it makes it a fresh, interesting environment to read about as I know many students for a very long time have spoken of the Great Barrier Reef to the point that I believe the HSC markers are quite possibly experts at this point.

The trucks will cause noise pollution so not only will the lack of the environment be an interruption to the education of Willoughby students but so will the noise pollution, a constant irritant to the entire school.

The process of creating the tunnel and the subsequent destruction of Flat Rock is damaging to the environment, ignores its value, will cause interruptions in the education of Willoughby students and become an irritant to the surrounding urban area.

I have so many thoughts about Flat Rock and the reasons why it should be preserved, both emotional and logical reasons but I hope what I have written will suffice in order to change your mind on the proposed Northern Beaches tunnel.