

Submission
No 199

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

Name: Mrs Kristelle Foot

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1) Introduction

I am a resident of the Northern Beaches and have recently become aware of the major impact the planned Beaches Link Tunnel is going to have on our way of life. We are a young family of 5 and have been living in North Balgowlah for the past 4 years. We love the area, because it is close to nature, has a close community and we don't feel as if we are living in a busy city, yet access to the city is very easy.

I am making a submission, because I am strongly opposed to this development.

It is going to have long lasting detrimental effects on the environment, the way of life on the Northern Beaches, to everyone in the area's health and these things seem to be under reported in the EIS.

2) The impact of the project on the environment and local recreational areas:

I am opposed to the destruction of native bush land and the removal of thousands of trees, the removal of recreational areas which are very highly utilized in this area, the harmful effects this development is going to have on sensitive species that live around here and the destruction of aboriginal rock art.

It seems to be a very big spend on something that isn't going to be as beneficial to anyone as is being reported. \$12 billion can surely be spent much more beneficially somewhere else where there is a real need. We, as a family, love to cycle, walk and go for runs in the bush around Manly dam and with the proposed 6 lane Wakehurst parkway, this freedom will be severely impacted.

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,

It appears that the numbers used to justify this tunnel is based on data from 2017, not taking into account the big shift that has taken place due to COVID. Many more people, including myself, are working from home and don't need to commute into the city on a regular basis anymore and this is surely going to be the way of the future. Shouldn't we be spending more on upgrading and bettering the public transport system instead of putting more cars on the road?

4) the adequacy of processes for accessing and responding to noise, vibration and other impacts on residents, during construction and operationally, I am strongly opposed to having thousands of trucks and equipment brought into the area to be used during the 5-7 years of construction. It is going to cause major traffic chaos and endanger people living in the area. Not even talking about the extra traffic the tunnel is going to bring to the Northern Beaches once it is finished. There just isn't the infrastructure to be able to handle this.

I would like to know what is going to be done about the stacks that are going to be pumping unfiltered exhaust fumes into the air, polluting a large area of the Northern Beaches? What is going to be done about the traffic chaos if or when the tunnel is being constructed? How is the traffic in the local area going to be managed when the tunnel is built?

5) whether the project is subject to the appropriate levels of transparency and accountability that would be expected of a project delivered by a public sector body. I would like to see the business case and cost benefit analysis for this project. I would also like to see whether alternative public transport options have been thoroughly investigated. I think that improvement in public transport and the building of a train line, instead of a tunnel would be far more beneficial to the people living on the Northern Beaches.