

**Submission
No 214**

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

Name: Mrs Grace Cooke

Date Received: 18 June 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am a local Geography teacher from a high school that is within 10 minutes walking distance to Flat Rock Gully and Bicentennial Reserve.

As a teacher, I feel so lucky to have such an amazing educational resource so close to our school and we regularly visit the Gully, from year 8 geographers studying our local water catchment to year 12 geographers looking at the vulnerability and resilience of this fragile ecosystem. The proximity to Flat Rock Gully has provided invaluable educational learning experiences beyond the classroom, a critical part of students understanding of the world around them in Geography.

I strongly oppose the proposed tunnel project as it will take away opportunities for students to conduct fieldwork and experience first-hand the beauty of our natural world, right on our doorstep. This proposal will significantly impact on the native wildlife, which has been regenerated over the last 30 years into a beautiful sclerophyll and micro-temperate rainforest, home to powerful owls, aquatic life and marsupials.

I believe the tunnel project would have significant environmental impacts as well as education impacts for local school students.

My opposition to this project is clear and unwavering.

Regards,
Grace Cooke.