

Submission
No 216

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

Organisation: Garigal Landcare

Date Received: 18 June 2021

We like to thank the Public Works Committee to allow us to raise our great concerns about this project. Garigal Landcare has been actively engaged in land restoration on the Northern Beaches for nearly 20 years and we strongly object to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Extension.

Members of our group all live on the Northern Beaches, with several coming from the Manly and Seaforth area, however some come from as far north as Bilgola and Scotland Island. Nearly all of us use private cars, all use public transport and some regularly ride bicycles.

We have a few strong swimmers in our group and all of us love the beach and the sea.

We also have a few of us working in health care and some with respiratory conditions eg asthma.

We like to address the following of your terms of reference:

- 1)(b) the adequacy of considerations of alternative options
- 2) (j) the impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems and
- 3) the impact on human health/ wellbeing

1) the provision of more infrastructure for cars, will attract more cars and will be clogged up by more cars first in the surrounding streets and eventually the new structure itself. We all experienced during the Covid19 pandemic to rethink options and commuting was hugely reduced and many continue to work from home.

Further the price tag of \$13Bill is ridiculously huge to pay for a 10% reduction in traffic on Military Rd. Public transport via buses could be hugely increased to provide much less space occupying and emission saving transport solutions on already existing roads and cutting away one transport lane for cars and making it buses only should be trialed. (it has been done in situations like this overseas)

2) The tunnel construction is predicted to expose and spill some of the toxic substances in the harbour bed. We watched a whale just yesterday swimming in the harbour and we feel blessed to experience this and wish we can show it to our grandchildren. Toxin exposure is a great risk not only for wildlife but also to the ones of us who swim in the water.

3) The destruction of > 20 ha of flora and fauna habitat including the annihilation of 1.5 ha of the endangered Duffys Forest Ecological Community is unacceptable. The water flow reduction in Burnt Creek with its consequences on the grey headed flying fox is terrible and the statement about the swails of not being able to achieve best water quality and allow that to happen is incomprehensible.

4) the fine particle pollution from airvents is proposed to be along their outfall double of WHO guidelines. Why would anyone allow that?