

Submission  
No 222

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

**Name:** Ms Karen Wetsteyn

**Date Received:** 15 June 2021

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Hello,

I am a resident and local of Seaforth. My family has lived in the area since 2000. We chose to live in this area due to the abundance of trees, green space and wildlife.

I have also volunteered for many years as a wildlife rescuer and carer on the Northern Beaches. I care passionately about our local environment and see it as a valuable treasure-many friends and family from overseas come and visit, and marvel at the beauty of the Northern Beaches and more specifically our local neighbourhood.

Burnt Bridge Creek is just down the road and has provided our family and visitors a unique experience of our local bushland and its inhabitants-from Flying foxes, to echidnas, possums, bandicoots, turtles, eels and too many birds to list here. It is a wildlife corridor. We are also a 10 minute walk away from the stunning Manly Dam-an absolute treasure of biodiversity for so many species of trees and wildlife. Some of which are on the threatened and endangered list.

I was absolutely shocked at the EIS regarding the Beaches tunnel link project proposal-and needless to say, I am opposed to it.

Here are some of the reasons I do not want a tunnel built in this area....

- The impact on the local environment will be huge to our community with rare open green space permanently removed including over 2500 established trees without local biodiversity offsets.
- The EIS has stated tunnel construction in North Balgowlah and Seaforth will cause the water table in Seaforth and North Balgowlah to fall, and natural groundwater flows into Burnt Bridge Creek will fall by 96%. This much-loved creek will become a stormwater drain, running only after significant rain, with downstream impacts to Manly Lagoon. What will the loss of water flows do to large trees and wildlife near the creek?  
What will the fall in the water table and loss of groundwater do to all the large trees in the suburb, in residents gardens?
- The widening of Wakehurst Parkway from Seaforth to Warringah Road (on the ridge between Bantry Bay and the Manly Dam War Memorial Park) will create polluted run-off water from even moderate rain events during construction. The EIS states due to topographical constraints these cannot be controlled – an admission that many in the community find unacceptable.
- The community has many concerns about dredging Middle Harbour and stirring up toxic sediment that will impact the marine environment, and insufficient silt curtains are offered as the only protection during construction. Would you be concerned to swim at Clontarf and nearby?
- The last mainland population of little penguins (approx. 60) lives on the Middle Harbour foreshore in Seaforth and Castlecrag, where coffer dams will be used in construction. The EIS acknowledges that the penguins will most probably be forced to leave the area permanently.

Surely we can better explore other alternatives-ie better public transport? A light rail option from Dee Why to Chatswood? More bus services? More frequent ferry timetables?

Please don't pave paradise, to put up a tunnel spot!

Many thanks Karen Wetsteyn