

Submission
No 223

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

Name: Mr Stephen Gray

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Dear Public Works committee,

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit to an enquiry regarding these troubling projects , I strongly object to the Western harbour tunnel (including the Warringah freeway upgrade and Beaches link tunnel) , including the Gorehill extension . I urge you to recommend that the NSW Government abandon these plans immediately.

The reason for my objection is on two grounds,

First being the destruction of endangered Duffys forest that will be removed if the Wakhurst Parkway is widened to four lanes, the destruction of other endangered/ vulnerable flora species that have been identified along this section of road and the affects that this will have on the local endemic fauna species that live and use this Noah's ark of a memorial Park to access the Garigal National Park on the western side of the Parkway.

There has been no consideration to how the local populations of fauna are supposed to cross this wide expanse of bitumen without ending up as road kill, this is disgusting in itself as the development of the Northern Beaches hospital removed large swathes of local bushland that has resulted in the fragmentation of local species.

I also object on the basis that the amount of storm water runoff that will have to be discharged into the headwaters of Manly dam which is home to the only Sydney endemic species of Galaxis climbing fish and on the western side is home to unique rainforest covered creeks that are fed by the trickel of water that makes it way down the hill side will eventually be destroyed by the surge of water, sediments/ chemicals that will come with the widening of this road that also will.make it's way into Middle Harbour.

My other objection to these projects is the collapse of the ecosystems that form Burnt bridge Creek which will loose up to 95% of its water as a result of the building of the Beaches tunnel so as not to cause any leakage problems into the tunnel, community groups have spent years and years rehabilitating large parts of this area to ensure it remains healthy, the proposed draining of any part of this.creek will have long term affects on downstream flora and fauna.

A lot of the transport / congestion on these roads can be overcome with a much better public transport system which I noted was absent on the overall plans for this project.

I would also like to state that I have been active in trying to preserve the Manly Dam Memorial Park for over twenty years from when I lived on the Northern Beaches to from where I live now in Western Australia,

Thankyou once again for allowing the public to have its say ,

Yours sincerely

Stephen Gray.