

Submission
No 227

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Parliamentary Inquiry on Beaches Link Tunnel - 16 June 2021

16 June 2021

We wish to raise a range of issues and concerns that we have about the current proposal. We have listened to the virtual information sessions, but these did nothing to allay our ongoing concerns, and we continue to have objections to the proposal.

We are concerned about the potential for the proposal to cause ongoing disruption, as well as adverse impacts on our amenity, lifestyle, local environment and property values. In particular, we have considerable concerns around the significant ongoing impact on our **mental and physical wellbeing**. For several years, we have been placed in a very stressful situation, given the long drawn out process and the constant evolving plans that a project of this nature necessitates. We are in situation that is beyond our control and there are real implications on our mental and financial wellbeing.

Our specific concerns traverse a number of related issues including:

- air quality
- noise
- vibrations
- traffic
- project facilities
- survey reports
- adverse environmental impacts
- project viability

We also have concerns about the viability of the whole project in the first instance. In particular, we have concerns about the government rushing through with a decision to proceed with a design that has:

- adverse environmental impacts
- marginal benefits in traffic reduction along Military Road
- Spit Bridge will still open for boats, continuing to disrupt flow of traffic
- significant increases in congestion in Manly Vale and in Balgowlah
- massively increased traffic coming to the northern beaches in the summer months
- significant financial impact

The project simply has too many uncertainties and potential long-term problems to rush. Does the business case really add up? It seems quite flawed in its current iteration. Further work needs to be done on understanding the long-term environmental damage and human cost of the project and whether the tunnel is really necessary. What about our children and their children – more roads, more cars, more tolls, pollution, resulting in health issues which will impact our health system. We want consideration of other sustainable options for transport. The business case / cost-benefit of taxpayers money should be transparent.