

Submission
No 246

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

I am totally opposed to the project of the Northern Beaches tunnel.

This project will destroy this area for the next 10 years while it is being built. The constant thought of the potential deforestation along the Wakehurst parkway along with the impact to the immediate community has led to me becoming depressed and anxious just thinking about this project. The traffic and disruption that it will cause is something that the ministers and officials in government have not considered as they do not live in this area, and frankly by their presentations in the media do not seem to care. They will impact the lives of thousands of people for years to come and they will be remembered by this negative legacy.

The current roads in the surrounding areas during and after this project is built will need a complete overhaul as they are already at capacity and cannot handle the current traffic. We are locals and know this better than any expert that has been employed to provide the government the advice to progress with this tunnel.

The benefits and projections in the EIS do not take any of this into consideration. This area is not the inner city and as such cannot sustain the impact that will be inflicted on this area. There are many alternate solutions that need to be thought through before this destruction takes place. At the moment there is quiet and calm from the Liberal supporters in the area, however once this construction starts and their lives are impacted, there will be a massive political upheaval due to this. I implore the Ministers involved in this not just to plough forward because it has been announced and the minister said " he will make it happen". We need to consider a broader plan.

The changes in the bus system in the area have been devastated by the Department of Transport with the recent changes to the point that commuters have abandoned the network and are back in their cars to get to work. It almost sounds like a grand plan to first ruin the bus service that the community was satisfied with, and then use this to justify a traffic solution that includes a new tunnel to solve this problem.

Further to this the current plan includes an exhaust stack in a basin where there is little air movement from the prevailing winds and near Childcare centres, primary schools and secondary schools. No matter what the experts say, there WILL be an impact in air quality and it will only be a matter of time before negative health issues result. Once again this will be the legacy of this current government.

The residents of this area have chosen to live here for a reason to enjoy the amenity of this area and this tunnel will serve to destroy this. As an example of the failure of previous Leadership in government, we can use the Packer casino as documented on a recent BC Four Corners program as a example of a poor legacy that points straight back to the government for something that the city did not need.

I implore the government to take a philosophical view of this overall plan and the destruction it will cause into consideration rather than just the fact that it will provide a new tunnel and expanded roads that will lead to current bottlenecks.