

Submission
No 263

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my objection the Beaches Tunnel Link. I was born in Manly Hospital and have lived on the Northern Beaches for my entire life. My wife and I are now bringing up our two sons in Clontarf in the hope they will enjoy the same great Northern Beaches childhood I did, spending lots of time outdoors, getting a fantastic education at their local public schools and making lifelong friends as they participate in their community. However, the Beaches Link Tunnel is threatening that childhood. If it is built as proposed, it will endanger their health, compromise their education and alter some very special places, like Clontarf Beach, Queenscliff Beach and Manly Dam, perhaps permanently.

- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because of the impact construction will have on the ecosystems and water quality of Manly Lagoon, Queenscliff and Manly Beaches. 428,000 litres of construction wastewater pumped into Burnt Bridge Creek every working day for four or more years at the Balgowlah Golf Course site will negatively impact the ecosystems and water quality downstream of the creek: namely Manly Lagoon, Queenscliff and Manly Beaches. My kids do Nippers at Queenscliff; I won a national surfboat title for Queenscliff in the 90s. I want my children, and all of our children, to be able to continue enjoying our local beach.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because the construction of the tunnel between Northbridge and Seaforth will lead to toxic contamination of the water at Clontarf and Sandy Bay. Dredging between Northbridge and Seaforth to construct cofferdams will disturb toxic sediments at the bottom of Middle Harbour. There is no guarantee the toxic sludge will be able to be contained during construction, and tidal movements will see this poisonous sludge deposited at popular swimming and recreation areas Clontarf and Sandy Bay. These toxins are thought to include such substances as heavy metals, hydrocarbons, pesticides, organotins, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), chemicals known to affect human health. Thus, the tunnel construction presents an unacceptable risk to the people who work and play, like me and my family, at Clontarf, Sandy Bay, Middle Harbour and Spit Marina.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because it will pollute Manly Dam. Work to widen the Wakehurst Parkway will result in uncontrolled flows of water into the dam during periods of heavy rain. Not only will Manly Dam no longer be safe for people to swim in, but biodiversity will also suffer. The only landlocked population of native Climbing Galaxias fish in Sydney live in Curl Curl Creek, part of the Manly Dam catchment. According to the Australian Museum, it is one of the most northern recorded Australian populations of Climbing Galaxias. They will most likely be eliminated should the water in the dam become polluted by the works associated with the tunnel project. My family and I enjoy bushwalking and swimming at Manly Dam – the tunnel puts these pastimes at risk.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because the construction and operation will increase traffic in residential streets in Balgowlah, turning our local streets into traffic rat runs, making them less safe for pedestrians, increasing noise in our homes and impacting the value of our properties. I want my children to be safe walking to and from school and around our local neighbourhood.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because the particulate matter distributed into the air by the emissions stacks at Balgowlah and Seaforth will endanger the lives of both children and adults in a 1.2km radius. The EIS itself acknowledges that the increased particulate matter in the air because of the emissions stacks will impact on the health of children in the surrounding area. It models increased hospitalisations for children aged 0-14 and increased deaths at the Seaforth Public School community receptor site (EIS, Appendix I, p64). The

tunnel's unfiltered emissions stacks pose an unacceptable risk to the health and lives of adults and children living and attending school and preschool in Balgowlah and Seaforth. My home and my children's future high school, Balgowlah Boys, are both within the 1.2km radius of the proposed emissions stack. How can I let my kids breathe in dangerous particulate matter day and night at school and at home?

- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because the 6-plus years of construction at the Balgowlah Golf Course will generate an unhealthy and unacceptable level of dust and noise and will create local traffic congestion and parking problems. The dust and noise will adversely affect both the physical and mental health of Balgowlah residents and students and staff at the Balgowlah Boys Campus. The vast number of vehicles (2.5 every minute, according to the EIS) leaving and arriving at the construction site will cause intolerable and constant traffic jams in local streets, and the hundreds of people working at the site each day will clog surrounding residential streets with their private vehicles, making parking impossible for residents.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because there is no community receptor at the Balgowlah Boys Campus. If there is a site that warrants a community receptor, surely it is a school with 1200 students directly adjacent to the Balgowlah Golf Course construction site, and only 322 metres from the planned emissions stack. It is frankly deceptive to not have a community receptor located at Balgowlah Boys.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because the link / access road connecting Sydney Road with Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation through the current Balgowlah Golf Course, complete with traffic lights on Sydney Road opposite Maretimo Street will:
 - Increase traffic rat-running on Upper Beach Street, New Street West and Maretimo Streets and their feeder streets
 - Make pedestrian activity around Maretimo Street and Sydney Road, particularly the movement of students arriving at and leaving Balgowlah Boys Campus, less safe
 - Reduce the air quality in the area of the Maretimo Street / Sydney Road / link road intersection as more vehicles idle at the lights
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because a mass transit solution connecting the Northern Beaches with the city has not been properly considered (i.e., thoroughly modelled and presented for public exhibition). The tunnel project does not promote public transport usage, it encourages the use of private cars, and therefore it contributes to climate change. In 2021, we can and must do better.
- I object to the Beaches Link Tunnel because I do not believe a 10% reduction in traffic on Military Road is worth the vast expense, environmental degradation, adverse effects on human health and loss of quality of life that this tunnel will cause should it go ahead. I also remain unconvinced that the traffic modelling used in the EIS is sufficiently accurate and reliable; it fails to take into account so many factors, including:
 - The 'work from home effect' brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Fewer people are commuting, and there are signs this trend might be here to stay.
 - Induced demand, where building a new road just leads to more traffic and so any reduction in travel time is quickly eaten up. There are plenty of examples of this occurring all over Sydney.

I commute to Eveleigh for work, so I understand as well as anyone the need for a solution to the Spit corridor congestion. What we, as a community, need is a well-considered, thoughtful solution that will future-proof the Northern Beaches transit corridors and reduce, not increase, the acceleration of climate change. The Beaches Link Tunnel is not it.