

Submission
No 267

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Hello,

My husband and I are local Seaforth residents with two children, one at Seaforth Public School and the other at local pre-schools and daycare.

We strongly oppose the Northern Beaches tunnel for several reasons. Please see our concerns and objections below.

- Construction will increase traffic and negatively impact our local lives for 7-10 years. This is unacceptable for all families and residents in Seaforth, Balgowlah, Manly Vale, and surrounds. Traffic and congestion in the local area will be dangerous, not only for drivers but also pedestrians, many of whom are local school kids.
- The number of trucks and large vehicles driving through Seaforth and surrounding areas will be extremely dangerous and cause severe traffic issues. There will be an estimated 1 truck every 1-2 minutes carrying soil. These trucks will likely go through Seaforth, making local roads dangerous. Especially around the bend near Seaforth Public School. This is unacceptable.
- Local families will be living in a construction zone for 7+ years. This will cause stress, anxiety, and mental health issues for the local community. How does the NSW government propose to support this?
- Like many people in the community, I have asthma. The construction, dust, soil, and drilling will severely impact the health of thousands of asthmatics and people with other respiratory health issues.
- The tunnel is not a viable option for the needs of Northern Beaches' residents. We need more public transport options, not a tunnel built for cars. It seems illogical (and fiscally irresponsible) to invest in a transport solution that does not offer and support an increase in better public transport.
- It has been proven time and time again that more roads and more highways do not reduce traffic and congestion. Perhaps the NSW government should consider alternatives that do not rely on 7-10 years of construction at a cost of billions to the taxpayer.
- Has NSW Government seriously considered and investigated alternatives to the tunnel? Such as making Military Road a clear way 24/7, or at least 6 am-7 pm, as is the case for other major roads into the area i.e. Warringah Road? Has NSW Government consulted with the Business community to review work hours and look to apply staggered start times? This will spread the peak hour commute and decrease traffic (not only for the Northern Beaches but also for Greater Sydney).
- The tunnel will severely impact local schools including Balgowlah Boys, Seaforth Public School, and many other schools. It will be extremely difficult for schools to provide a safe and acceptable learning environment during 7+ years of construction. Likewise, students will find it impossible to focus with all the surrounding construction. This will cause stress and mental health issues for hundreds of students.
- The tunnel will impact local biodiversity. I am concerned about the impact on Burnt Creek and where the wastewater will flow.

- Like most families in the community, I'm also extremely concerned about the pollution impacts of the tunnel and the pollution we (local residents) will be subjected to over 7+ years of construction.

The way we live and work has changed since Covid. There must be a better, innovative and more fiscally responsible way to reduce traffic and increase public transport options and usage. A tunnel is NOT the answer.