

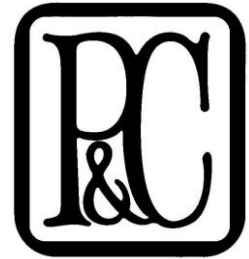
Submission  
No 285

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

**Organisation:** Balgowlah North Public School P&C

**Date Received:** 18 June 2021

---



Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of Balgowlah North Public-School P&C, to voice the concerns of our school community around the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel and its impacts on our school, the wider community, and the local environment.

We are under no illusion that this letter alone will necessarily stop the tunnel, what we are hoping for is to clearly document our concerns so you can consider if the tunnel is still appropriate in a post COVID world, and work with you to achieve an outcome beneficial for not only us, but future generations, our children.

Whatever the outcome of this letter, and the other objections you are no doubt receiving, we want assurances that at any stage during the project the impacts to our school, community and environment are negligible. We will focus on key areas that we as a community feel need to be revisited, or considered, when deciding on the final outcomes of this project.

### Revisiting the tunnel justification

**Concern** - The figures put forward in the EIS indicate only a minimal reduction in the traffic flowing through Mosman for a significant and disproportionate use of public funds.

We feel that many of the assumptions for traffic used as justification of the build in the EIS have not factored in changes to travel habits and working from home due to COVID-19 and into the future, treating COVID-19 as having only a "temporary" impact".

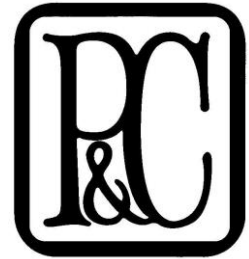
**Request** - There are many new data points to factor in given the impact of COVID-19 on lifestyles long term and we stand with Viable Transport solutions in asking the government to halt the development process to allow for a suitable review, and to publicly release the results of the review.

### Construction Impact

**Concern** - The construction phase of the project will undoubtedly impact North Balgowlah residents with dust, noise, vibration, and heavy vehicle traffic in the area. North Balgowlah will have construction surrounding most of the suburb and the EIS indicates that during construction there will be.

- Over 3,000 vehicles per day across all sites.
- 1,690 vehicles per day at the Balgowlah Golf Course site alone.

BNPS P&C Association  
ABN 69 334 050 750  
C/O BNPS 10 Manning Street, North Balgowlah 2093  
Email: bnpsandc@gmail.com



- 1.5 heavy vehicles every minute or 4.5 vehicles (total) every minute.
- Over 4,000 homes subjected to excessive noise
- Construction work to proceed 24/7 for up to 7 years.

**Request** – Reconsider how to ensure that the impact of trucks/vehicles is not felt on the suburban streets that are already hard to navigate with local traffic and buses. Ensure areas around schools and parks are not impacted and are safe for families and children to walk or ride around the local community. Disincentivise commuters looking to use our streets as a rat run to save time from congestion and money from using the toll roads.

## Ventilation stacks

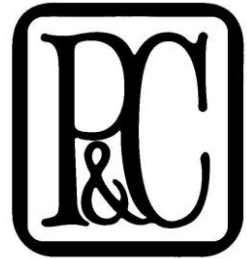
**Concern** - Global health experts agree that pollution from traffic exhaust poses serious health risks. Emissions include nitrous oxides and particulate matter that, when breathed into the lungs, causes respiratory diseases such as asthma and emphysema, and cancer. There are several schools, preschools, childcare centres, and sporting fields within the vicinity of all the proposed ventilation stacks and from a parent's point of view, the increased level of pollution is unacceptable.

**Request** - If the tunnel were to go ahead that the stacks be equipped with full filtration to minimize these impacts. At the very least the air pollution is kept at the current levels.

## Environmental Impact

**Concern** - We are fortunate to live in an area that incorporates some spectacular bush land, reserves, and beaches and would urge that further consideration is given to the major environmental impacts, including but not limited to:

- Movement of contaminated sediment to Clontarf and Middle Harbour (The Spit) potentially causing pollution of the neighbouring beaches.
- Destruction of Burnt Bridge Creek and surrounds (e.g., bushland, wildlife etc) due to a possible 96% reduction in water flow.
- Discharge of 428,000 L per day of wastewater into Queenscliff Lagoon & Beach, resulting in health hazards for people and animals who swim in the waterways.
- Pollution of Manly Dam reserve, resulting in the potential extinction of rare flora and fauna and the last remaining areas of Duffy's Forest, and meaning that one of the only swimmable dams in NSW is no longer safe for public use.
- Loss of recreational activities with the mountain bike trails that are used for riding, walking, and running.



**Request** –We want assurances that future generations get to experience the natural wonders of the area in all its glory. That wildlife can live in the shadows of residential houses, not shadows of construction and pollution. What is the point of making the northern beaches more accessible if the very heart of what makes the northern beaches so special is destroyed?

We understand that in life, it is important to move forward, but not at all costs. If anything, COVID should teach us that we need to look after what we have got, each other and the environment so we can all live together sustainably, leaving the world in a better place for future generations. We are not sure the tunnel is the answer.

Yours Sincerely,

Balgowlah North Public-School P&C President