

Submission
No 315

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Members,

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like you to consider alternatives to the planned Beaches Link as it is not what the community wants.

We need an alternative way for Northern Beaches residents so they can avoid the Spit Bridge and Military Rd, but another hugely expensive toll road isn't really addressing the problem. It will negatively impact the environment, traffic around the suburbs and pollution levels around the largest school area in the country. What is needed is a good public transport solution, not causing increasing health issues for our children.

Residents around the North Sydney area already have one of the lower percentages of green space per capita in the city and this project would reduce it even further.

One thing the pandemic has shown us is that green space is incredibly important for both physical and emotional health and the proposed tunnel would not only impact on that, but dredge up extremely poisonous substances from our inner harbour floor.

Surely, after all the "pivoting" we have done in the last 18 months, this is something for the government to consider, as priorities have changed dramatically, especially when considering how many people are now working from home.

There could be a public transport solution to connect to e.g Chatswood, the Metro has been hugely successful in passenger uptake, was constructed on time and within budget - something that hasn't happened when constructing toll roads and the estimated cost of 14 billion will most likely increase substantially.

Does this government want to be remembered as one with a futuristic vision, taking into account how to transport residents of NSW in a sustainable manner, or one that sticks to an unpopular and expensive plan which has been shown to be less relevant as the younger generations are abandoning car travel in droves?

We hope you will reconsider this project and spend tax payer's money in a more constructive way.