

Submission
No 318

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

This letter is in regarding the Public Works Committee of the NSW Legislative Council inquiry and report on the impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link (WHTBL) Project which includes the Warringah Freeway Upgrade, the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Link. I encourage this inquiry and report on the basis that it is consistent with Transport for NSW Principles and Guidelines for Economic Appraisal of Transport Investment and Initiatives and urge the inquiry and report be conducted in conjunction with a freeze on further works to these projects so as not to waste funds and to ensure impartiality.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. NSW Government's Future Transport Technology Roadmap 2016 suggests technology-led change. There are changes underway to the longstanding culture of car-driving and road with recent generations not securing driving licenses as they become eligible. WHTBL is an outdated proposal reflecting outdated 20th century planning and not looking ahead to transport needs for the future. It is a burden on future generations in terms of cost and opportunity.

Enormous costs and inevitable overruns of the WHTBL will consume funds needed for Covid 19 recovery, post-'China Boom' initiatives to further Australia's economy, bushfire and flood mitigation, green technology developments, emissions reductions including fossil fuel alternatives and supplements which are now gaining global support, public health and other areas showing a clear need and showing a clear benefit to the taxpayers expected to fund them.

The WHTBL would require a lengthy payback covering 4-5 decades of tolls plus increasing tolls elsewhere (ie. The Sydney Harbour Bridge). Alternatives have not been considered. The inquiry and report must consider all options including public transport and it is imperative that genuine, not token, public consultation be sought and considered for what should be an historically important achievement to take Australia into the future.