

**Submission
No 301**

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

Name: Mrs Charlotte Hunter

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I object to this project on so many fronts - I can't believe that a government I voted for in the past and whose area I live in where the local member is the premier can even contemplate building this massive white elephant. I can't believe that property has been acquired and jobs advertised before the project has been approved and community consultation has occurred and that trees are starting to get knocked down. Losing 3000 trees as a result of the Western Harbour Tunnel - Northern Beaches link projects is criminal.

1. I object to the EIS only having 25% of the design shown so that construction companies can do what they will with the rest of the design.
2. I object to the fact that the business case has never been released - this is shonky! Unlawful!
3. I object that they are using tax payers money to make something that only will help a few people for a short time before traffic levels will return to the current levels but we will be tolled for the privilege by Transurban. I believe this is solely being built to help big business as the data doesn't back up the project. I think they're trying to put more people onto other toll roads to make them more profitable.
4. I object that the initial cost estimation is so high after a period of pandemic, drought, flood and fire. We should not be spending this much money on a road tunnel. We need long lasting environmentally sound infrastructure. I propose that a metro line is constructed up to the beaches to assist the Roseville Bridge road corridor (which is actually more congested than Military) which will in turn help with car load on Military Road.
5. I object to having unfiltered stacks constructed not following world's best practice effecting people living and working but also many children in the area of Australia with the highest proportion of children in schooling! The United Nations Convention for Children's Rights says that fresh air is a fundamental human right for kids worldwide. Why are they ignoring all the data about those small PM2.5 particles and how detrimental they are to developed and developing lungs? It's evil! My kids all go to school in the local area and I do not want to know I didn't stand up for their health if in years to come there is a huge level of lung disease.
6. I object to their blatant disregard for the community's health and wellbeing. Putting a major dive site in a valley surrounded by residential housing and sports courts and recreational space is ludicrous. The valley echoes, dust lingers. It's dangerous and will cause people to be unwell with stress and sleeplessness. Not to mention that this is a buried tip and this tip was around before the careful rules of today. It is contaminated land and no one should be at risk. If the project needs to go ahead the dive site should be in an industrial area such as in Artarmon where trucks can go straight onto the highway and people will not be effected to this extent. Our homes may also be impacted by the movement from the digging.
7. I object to the massive amount of environmental devastation they're willing to undertake for this pointless project. A) destructions of thousands of trees B) a wildlife protection area getting cleared at Flat Rock Gully just as animals have started returning and trees have matured so breeding and feeding can occur. C) the creek getting changed at Flat Rock and many kilolitres of waste water being dumped into it effecting flora and fauna right through the valley D) the dredging of the harbour in Middle Harbour and associated deaths and disturbance of sea flora and fauna including rare species such as sea grass communities. E) contamination risks through out the whole project are too high for environmental and social reasons. F) The lack of appreciation of the importance of the valley to the Cammeraygal people - it was the passage of the rainbow serpent.
8. The loss of green space for recreational pursuits on golf courses in Cammeray and for the Northbridge Sailing Club.
9. The traffic mayhem that will occur for years and years - it's not short term and to know at the end that what has been created has not solved any problems will be even more devastating. Putting lights on Brook St/Flat Rock Drive and letting 70 heavy vehicles out per hour will

impact the local street network of Alpha/Sailors Bay Road/Eastern Valley/Willoughby Road greatly and cause danger to children and families as they travel via car or on foot or bike.

10. The waste of water, destruction of stored water reserves and change of groundwater that will effect remaining vegetation.

I appreciate this inquiry as I firmly believe that something is rotten to the core with this project - that there are potentially deals being made - how else can purporting intelligent people like our premier and other ministers ignoring the data from both Australian specialists and from around the world about the importance of green space (Flat Rock Gully provides great solace in this pandemic for many and recreation for children and families as well as amazing habitat for animals that are struggling in urban areas. We are fortunate to have them (see my images)) and the detrimental impacts of road tunnels and unfiltered stacks.

Charlotte Hunter