

Submission  
No 321

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

The fact that these submissions close after work on the Western Harbour Tunnel has commenced clearly demonstrates the contempt in which this state government holds the views of its citizens.

This tunnel will be yet another disaster in the governments poorly planned and wasteful “initiatives”.

1. As demonstrated by Westconnex, buildings above the proposed tunnel and for 50 metres on either side will be subject to cracking. This will affect buildings in Balmain and Rozelle in particular as they are predominantly nineteenth century or earlier. In addition there will inevitably be noise, vibration and pollution during construction.

2. The former Balmain Leagues Club site is to be used as a “dive site”. But it is not directly above the tunnel route. Plans show another tunnel running from the Leagues Club site to the actual tunnel site but do not show whether this runs at an angle or is dropped to the level of the main tunnel. The former would have a particularly deleterious effect on adjacent houses. Engineers on the project were unable to clarify this for me.

3. Yurulbin Point Park will be closed to the public for four years and probably more given likely delays. Dredging of contaminated soil in this area will cause harbour pollution which will negatively affect the marine environment. Water quality at the Dawn Fraser pool will also be adversely affected - a tragedy given that the pool has recently undergone a multi million dollar refurbishment.

4. No alternative options have been considered and the government’s track record on these projects means that there is likely to be a massive cost overrun. (it has just been revealed that Westconnex is costing twice the original estimate and that the government tried to hide \$4 million of that).

5. It is highly likely that tunnel usage will not meet the projections as travel and work patterns which have changed due to COVID 19 are likely to persist. These should be reassessed.

There is no justification for a Western Harbour tunnel in view of the changes in usage, costs to taxpayers, adverse effects on residents and businesses, particularly in Balmain and Rozelle and damage to the marine environment. Current work should cease immediately.