

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 299b

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 18 June 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Members of the Committee,

I wish to object very strongly to this proposed tunnel underneath Middle Harbour from Seaforth/Brookvale to the city.

Firstly if you look at all the great, civilised cities in the world especially Europe, the vast majority of people use public transport to commute. They do not drive into the city.

This tunnel will increase the amount of traffic using both the Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road as well as traffic from Condomine Street into the Burnt Bridge Bypass

It will have ramifications in increased traffic usage of the Forest Way, the section of the Parkway from the new hospital site to Narrabeen and ultimately Pittwater Road from Brookvale all the way up to Mona Vale.

The Northern Beaches are already suffering from an excess of car usage. From 2 PM to 7 PM, Pittwater road is fully congested travelling through Collaroy to Narrabeen to Mona Vale to Newport. The existing Wakehurst Parkway and Powderworks Road backup in both directions during both the evening and morning peak hours. The peak hour on Wakehurst Parkway now extends far into the early morning and late into the evening.

The new Frenchs Forest precinct and the proposed Ingleside subdivision are not supported by a rapid mass transport system such as light rail.

Apparently, almost all other new precincts being developed by the State government have a rail/light rail system attached

A light rail system connecting Dee Why to Chatswood would make it an efficient way to connect to the existing public transport system.

This provides an incentive for infrastructure spending.

The tunnel is predicted to cost billions of taxpayers' dollars. A light rail would provide an ongoing source of revenue for the State Government through the continued use of the system.

The State Government has already built a light rail from the northwest of Sydney. The Government should be able to budget for and build a light rail system. This should not be subject to unexpected overruns or billions of dollars as has been announced for West Connex.

Lastly, if we are serious as a society about dealing with climate change especially within the next nine years (which is what science is telling us we have to do), then why are we building a tunnel and road system that is dependent on cars which are greenhouse gas emitters. The actual process of building the roads/tunnel will cause the emissions of millions and millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The ongoing running of the tunnel with vehicles will continue to add millions and millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. The expected idling vehicles in congested roads leading to the tunnel system would also add extra millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.

We have heard Mr. Morrison announce at the G7 that Australia needs to do far more to curb its emissions. A most logical way to assist Australia to curb its emissions would be to scrap this tunnel and build a light rail system from Dee Why to Chatswood.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.  
I really appreciate it.

Yours sincerely.