

Submission
No 333

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee,

I am a Balmain resident of 20 years, an Australian citizen, a keen NSW voter and a taxpayer. I have never lodged a parliamentary submission or any form of letter to state or federal parliament ever. So apologies in advance if this seems a very amateur effort but I felt so strongly that I wanted to lodge my concerns about the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Westconnex project.

It is my biggest concern as a voter and I wanted to write this so I can be heard.

I am so worried about the lack of filters on the ventilation stacks and the impact the emissions will have on the health of all of the residents like myself and my close family in the Balmain and Rozelle area from Westconnex and Western Harbour Tunnel.

It will be years before the impacts from this pollution will be felt but I firmly believe you are putting the health of the areas residents at risk from this pollution. The measures you have in place aren't enough.

I pay rates and taxes and I would do anything to be able to have a voice in getting these stakes filtered and improved filtration for the tunnels. I feel so upset that you won't filter these stacks. Why can't there be a way that public funds can be raised or used for stack and improved in-tunnel filtration.

I keep reading from the government that they are doing "best practice" and the stacks are high enough and don't need to be filtered. I don't accept this. I don't believe you have sufficiently considered the health impacts on the residents in the area.

I am also worried about the effects of the toxins in the harbour sludge that will be dug up during the construction. (See SMH news article 13/2/2021 by Carrie Fellner) This will have impact on harbour users and marine wildlife. I would stop using the Dawn Fraser pool for example and would worry about those who still used it.

I really do hope you will listen to the voices of people on this. I am not an extremist, I understand pragmatism and compromise, and the need for residents in outer suburbs to have transport options. But I'm so angry and concerned that you have not filtered these vent stacks. It is unacceptable and I feel ignored as a voter.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this.