

Submission  
No 339

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 17 June 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Public Works Committee members,  
thank you for holding this enquiry into the Northern Beaches Tunnel and associated works project.

I object to the project going ahead in it's current form for the following reasons:

1. When this project was initially announced just prior to the 2017 by-election for the seat of Manly, the projected cost was set as \$3 Billion & yet the latest estimated cost is said to be \$14 Billion. An increase of this size, \$11 Billion, or nearly 5 times, is unprecedented, even for this profligate govt and there has been no details provided as to the reason for this huge increase.
2. There has been no detailed, complete business case released which shows the true costs and the benefits, or how the the completed project is supposed to provide a net benefit to the community of NSW.
3. Based on the currently anticipated cost & traffic volumes, the likely toll cost per trip will be in the order of \$7 each way, in todays dollars.
4. The project really doesn't address the traffic issues & will not have a major benefit to the community as all it will do is to take the current traffic off Military Rd which goes into Warringah Freeway and put it in the tunnel, which will then just dump that same traffic about 1.5 kilometers further back up the Warringah Freeway. As for the traffic heading to the beaches, it will just dump all of the current traffic onto the Burnt Bridge Deviation which is where it ends up now anyway. Why are we not looking at moving the traffic from Dee Why and Mona Vale through to Ryde, Macquarie Park and Chatswood as that is where a significant amount of the traffic on Military Rd heads to.
5. The estimated build time is said to be 6 years and projects like this have a history of taking far longer than estimated. Experienced project managers with histories of similar works estimate that the build time will be more like 8 - 10 years. Why are we looking at doing this project when we can already see a likely reduction in private car use in the future & why are we not focusing on public transport?
6. The environmental damage done to Middle Harbour and The Spit will last for many years both during the building of the tunnel and in the following years.
7. Taking away the Balgowlah Golf Course and all of its established trees is an unacceptable reduction of green space.
8. The impact on Burnt Bridge Creek will be enormous and will effectively kill it and the associated flora and fauna which is dependent on it.

This project needs a complete rethink as to what holistic travel solution will work best in 8 - 10 years given likely changes to commuting, working from home and car ownership. Whatever solution is forthcoming needs a complete, detailed business case to be prepared and publicly released for review prior to finalising any decisions or awarding of any contracts.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.