

Submission
No 343

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

I am writing in regard to the proposed NORTHERN BEACHES TUNNEL project.

I strongly believe that the decision to build the tunnel should be reviewed in light of the changed working conditions brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic, further more I strongly believe any tunnel should it go ahead should be built with space to accommodate a future rail line. I believe we owe it to our children to be building infrastructure that moves away from a car-based society and promotes public transport use.

I would like to express my deep concerns at a number of the impacts of the project.

IMPACT ON BALGOWLAH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

As a parent of a child currently in year 8 at Balgowlah Boys High School, I am greatly concerned by the impact of the project on the school and believe the NSW Government has both a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that the impacts are minimised as much as possible. First and foremost, I believe the submission written by the Balgowlah Boys P&C must be considered with the utmost priority as it speaks on behalf of the entire school population both present and future.

The key issues that I believe need to be addressed as a priority and BEFORE commencement of works are as follows:

- guaranteed safe access to the school at all times, with particular attention given to the time frame of arrival and departure of the student body.
- continuous noise and air quality monitoring to ensure the boys and staff are not being exposed to long term harmful conditions. These measurements must be started BEFORE construction starts so a base level is obtained in order to properly gauge the impact of construction.
- funding for the relocating of exams for all classes, including transport for the boys, to an offsite location, and particular close consideration given to the impacts on those boys sitting their HSC
- installation of double glazing in all class/staff rooms and offices to minimise the impact of noise on day to day learning and working

It is imperative that TfNSW immediately establish a working group to liaise with the school PRIOR to project commencement to address these concerns and then provides a dedicated liaison person, with some level of authority, to ensure communications are open and issues are addressed quickly.

If it this project runs to time (projected time frame of 2023 -2028) based on current intake some 2400 boys will spend all or part of their entire High School career in close proximity to a major construction. The NSW Government has a responsibility to ensure this construction does not adversely affect these young men or the people teaching and supporting them. This is more than a matter of budget and cost it is about the well being and future of kids.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

I am deeply concerned at the effect the tunnel construction will also have on the local environment including the large fruit bat colony and the reduction of flow at Burnt Bridge Creek. Further more the emissions from exhaust stacks will pollute the local air. In our current times if we cannot do something in an environmentally responsible way we should not do it at all!!