

Submission
No 302

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose the construction of the Northern Beaches tunnel on the following grounds according to the terms of reference of this inquiry.

a) The business case has not been released hence it is impossible to know. The reason for not releasing it is unknown. This is completely unacceptable.

b) Alternative proposals. The case for improved public transport along the existing corridors has not been made. This proposal could be more palatable if a train service was included in the tunnel, not nearly enough attention has been given to less use of private vehicles.

h) As with the business case, the base case financial model and benefit/cost ratio have not been published. One can only be suspicious when all the information is not provided to the public for scrutiny.

j) The environmental impact of this tunnel will be enormous both during construction and into the future.

The dive site in Flat Rock Gully is rehabilitated land containing asbestos from the former garbage tip on which the area has been built. The local community has spent many years creating and nurturing this area which is widely used by the whole community for sport, recreation and leisure. It is a rare and valued asset and will be destroyed during construction. The argument that it can be rehabilitated after construction is flawed as the area contains many established trees which will take years to regrow.

The Northbridge Baths will be unable to be used for at least 5 years during construction. This area is a very popular venue for families all year round. The disturbance of the seabed will mean the water quality will be unsafe during construction and who knows how long afterwards?

The marine environment will suffer with disturbance during construction and loss of habitat long term for animals & birds, and loss/destruction of sea grasses which provide habitat for marine life. There are contaminated areas which will be disturbed and thus threaten the (more than 70) endangered species around Middle Harbour.

Foreshore disturbance and damage around various sites, eg Tunks Park, Clive Park and Middle Harbour will disturb wildlife. We have Powerful Owls in the area. As a community, we place a high value on our wildlife and the environment. Many residents are actively involved with bush care and other local environmental groups.

Unfiltered smoke stacks near schools is of great concern as it directly affects the next generation. It is totally unacceptable that there will be unfiltered air dispersed in the area with the highest density of schools in Sydney.

l) The impact on nearby public sites. The loss of public space in Cammeray Park and the impact on Bicentennial Park, Northbridge Baths and Clive Park are all significant to local users as well as the wider community who use these facilities. This is a tragedy.

m) The dollars intended to be spent on this project could be so much better spent on projects benefitting the whole of NSW, eg flood and fire mitigation projects which have been on the table for years and never acted upon. We need and deserve a better public transport system statewide, not another tunnel which will only serve vehicles going to a very small area of Sydney. Also of concern is the prospect that the Government will enter into partnership agreements where we will have to compensate businesses if the tunnel is not used as proposed - as we have experienced in the past.

I am vehemently opposed to the construction of this tunnel.