

Submission
No 371

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

It is with a heavy heart that I write once again about the tunnel project. You may now be experiencing fatigue in the community with fewer submissions than there should be. This is not reflective of a community steadfast against this project, but a result of so many different forums requiring separate submissions. Please let's not do this unless we know the benefits are watertight and the community can understand the sacrifices being asked. Currently we do not only not understand, but the sacrifices are intolerable!

Concern 1 - The figures put forward in the EIS indicate only a minimal reduction in the traffic flowing through Mosman for a significant and disproportionate use of public funds. The purpose and benefits of the proposed tunnel are minimal in themselves and are far outweighed by the catastrophic effect on the environment and the residents of the northern beaches. We are devastated by the very idea and fail to see any significant benefit.

We feel that many of the assumptions for traffic used as justification of the build in the EIS have not factored in changes to travel habits and working from home due to COVID-19 and into the future, treating COVID-19 as having only a "temporary" impact". There are many new data points to factor in given the impact of COVID-19 on lifestyles long term and we stand with Viable Transport solutions in asking the government to halt the development process to allow for a suitable review, and to publicly release the results of the review.

Concern 2 - The construction phase of the project will undoubtedly impact North Balgowlah residents with dust, noise, vibration, and heavy vehicle traffic in the area. North Balgowlah will have construction surrounding most of the suburb and the EIS indicates that during construction there will be.

- Over 3,000 vehicles per day across all sites.
- 1,690 vehicles per day at the Balgowlah Golf Course site alone.
- 1.5 heavy vehicles every minute or 4.5 vehicles (total) every minute.
- Over 4,000 homes subjected to excessive noise
- Construction work to proceed 24/7 for up to 7 years and more if the hospital development is anything to go by.

Concern 3 - Global health experts agree that pollution from traffic exhaust poses serious health risks. Emissions include nitrous oxides and particulate matter that, when breathed into the lungs, causes respiratory diseases such as asthma and emphysema, and cancer. There are several schools, preschools, childcare centres, and sporting fields within the vicinity of all the proposed ventilation stacks and from a parent's point of view, the increased level of pollution is unacceptable.

If the tunnel were to go ahead that the stacks be equipped with full filtration to minimize these impacts. At the very least the air pollution is kept at the current levels.

Concern 4 - We are fortunate to live in an area that incorporates some spectacular bush land, reserves, and beaches and would urge that further consideration is given to the major environmental impacts, including but not limited to:

- Movement of contaminated sediment to Clontarf and Middle Harbour (The Spit) potentially causing pollution of the neighbouring beaches.
- Destruction of Burnt Bridge Creek and surrounds (e.g., bushland, wildlife etc) due to a possible 96% reduction in water flow.
- Discharge of 428,000 L per day of wastewater into Queenscliff Lagoon & Beach, resulting in health hazards for people and animals who swim in the waterways.
- Pollution of Manly Dam reserve, resulting in the potential extinction of rare flora and fauna and the last remaining areas of Duffy's Forest, and meaning that one of the only swimmable dams in NSW is no longer safe for public use.
- Loss of recreational activities with the mountain bike trails that are used for riding, walking, and running.

We want to ensure that future generations get to experience the natural wonders of the area in all its glory. That wildlife can live in the shadows of residential houses, not shadows of construction and pollution. What is the point of making the northern beaches more accessible if the very heart of what makes the northern beaches so special is destroyed?
Please see sense before wasting resources.