

**Submission
No 355**

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

Name: Mrs Prema Green

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Dear Committee,

Thank you for taking public comments on the impacts of the Beaches Link tunnel project. Please consider my earlier submission to the Beaches Link EIS as it outlines my key concerns about the project's impact. I touch mostly on Terms of Reference (b), (e), (g) and (j)

Submission from Prema Green

As the mother of two young children living in [redacted], I have serious concerns about the impacts of the Beaches Link project. The information provided in the EIS shows it will worsen congestion around Frenchs Forest while at the same time doing much damage to Manly Dam bushland and other beautiful natural spots. Therefore, it will not deliver travel time benefits for our area, while negatively impacting our surroundings.

At every level, this project will fail my children and their generation.

- It will put tens of thousands of school students in harms way during construction (dust, noise, extreme congestion and stress), essentially asking them to conduct six or more years of their education alongside massive construction sites. Once built the tunnel will also expose tens of thousands of children to unfiltered emissions daily due to the proximity of the stacks to many schools, despite strong past statements by politicians including the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian about the risks of unfiltered emissions.
- It will lock our region into a private car, toll based transport model which is the most punitive transport model financially for young families and the most damaging, in terms of emissions, damage to flora and fauna and water resources.
- The tunnel project also fails to take into the NSW Government's commitment to 'net zero by 2050' as it is both emissions-intensive during construction and operation. Likewise it fails to consider the environmental losses in terms of net zero by 2050, Australia's commitment to the Paris accord and numerous other environmental policies and goals. Felling large areas of carbon dioxide-absorbing trees will just increase emissions locally. In the UK, a court blocked Heathrow Airport's third runway due to the project's incompatibility with the UK's Paris commitments. The Beaches Link tunnel seems to have been considered without thought for our common future or the government promised commitments to climate action.
- The tunnel project fails to understand the community's deep love for the natural environment on the northern beaches and our responsibility to 'future proof' this region for our children by retaining and protecting our valuable urban bushland. Almost a third

of endangered species are surviving in urban bush. Its importance to the future of Australia's natural environment is critical.

- The Beaches Link project does not take into account major changes in how we live and work since COVID19. My husband previously commuted to a job in western Sydney. The only way he could afford to use toll roads was to have these costs 'packaged' into his salary. We have since both reverted to working locally and will continue to do so. As a family we do not want a life of long distance commuting using expensive toll roads. COVID19 has given many of us the opportunity to rethink and restructure so we can live and work locally. We are also surprised how incompatible the tunnel project is with the NSW Government's recent draft planning blueprint prioritising green spaces, local liveability and public transport over private cars (smh, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/bike-friendly-green-space-working-from-home-new-planning-blueprint-for-life-after-covid-19-20210224-p575hy.html>.)
- To improve transport for those who need to move in and out of the northern beaches, we would prefer public transport and active transport options over private toll roads. It is very confusing to be presented with a private toll road when so many government and Council policies claim to be promoting public and active transport.
- We would prefer NOT to use the Beaches Link tunnel for all these and many other reasons. **We hope its many negative impacts are seriously considered by Transport for NSW before public money is committed to such an uncertain transport model.**