

Submission
No 357

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

Name: Mrs Lee Lee

Date Received: 16 June 2021

Thankyou for reading my submission to object to the proposed development/dive site planned for Flat Rock Gully. The locals of this precinct – Cammeray – Naremburn and Northbridge – have NOT been heard. There are many good and sound reasons WHY there should NOT be a dive site at Flat Rock Gully and I'd like to list them here.

At the time of consultation – in 2018 - two options were given:

Site A – the Baseball Diamond on the western side of Flat Rock Drive, OR

Site B - the regenerated bushland east of Flat Rock Drive.

The sporting clubs (the Baseball and the netball clubs) were united in their response and spoke up quickly and they won that debate. The residents – blindsided by this development – and without any formal committees or communication avenues – managed to make many submissions PLUS a petition that included over 400 resident signatures. (This was hand delivered to our local member Gladys Berejiklian). All to no avail. Site B was chosen. The best scenario would have been to have both groups work together to insist on NO dive site AT ALL in Flat Rock Gully! But of course – time did not allow.

There has been insufficient time for the residents of the areas affected to adequately read and comment on the 12,000 page EIS material.

Flat Rock Gully sits on an historical tip site operational from 1935 to 1980. The proposed dive site is has known contaminants (detailed in the EIS) which will be unearthed during the tunnel construction.

No business case (for the tunnel) has been released to the public and there has been NO proper assessment of public transport alternatives.

The EIS needs to be reissued to consider more environmentally friendly and more sustainable alternatives to the tunnel. There needs to be serious alternatives considered - including public transport options. Data post 2016 should be collected and considered – to factor in the introduction of the B-line buses and the impact of more people than ever working remotely due to Covid19.

A new dive site needs to be developed due to:

1. Flat Rock Gully has known- contaminants (from the historical tip),
2. Flat Rock Gully is a thriving wildlife corridor supporting a number of ecosystems, it is in a water catchment area,
3. The truck movements in and around Flat Rock Gully will bring dust (as it is removed), noise, increased traffic putting at risk the health and safety of residents and the children who live and play in and around the Flat Rock Gully precinct.

According to WEPA (The Willoughby Environmental Protection Association) our local bushland is disappearing. We can no longer afford to put construction sites, with all their impacts, in remaining urban biodiversity rich areas.

o I object to the risk of downstream environments becoming contaminated.

• I object to the amount of 117,000 Kilolitres of wastewater that will be flushed down Flat Rock Creek daily – due to construction and operational activities

• I object to 500m³ of spoil allowed to be stockpiled outside of the shed. Even the EIS states that dust is “difficult to contain” even with the best mitigation measures in place. With sporting grounds are nearby – on a weekend windy day this poses a potential health risk to the children playing sport.

• I object to the landfill gas (that sits in Flat Rock Gully) being released from historical landfill in Flat Rock Gully

• I object to the amount of drawdown as a result of the tunnel construction and operation

• I object to the risk of settlement and subsidence to homes in and around the dive-site. This poses potential cracks in property due to settlement.

• I object that the flood study in the EIS does NOT take into account flooding east of the dive site.

- I object to ANY impacts on fauna and bushland and houses and people who reside near the construction site.

There are many MORE reasons AGAINST placing a dive site at Flat Rock Gully than there are reasons FOR.

This is NOT a good option and should be re-thought.

Thank you for reading.

Mrs Lee Lee

Northbridge NSW