

Submission  
No 367

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

**Name:** Ms Leonie Cowan

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I have read and fully endorse the submission to this inquiry by the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee and fully support it..

I am opposed to the design of this tunnel (in terms of its impact, size location and scale).

For many years the community has endeavoured to protect Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) because of its natural, recreational and aboriginal heritage values. Its bushland conservation has created a unique “living” war memorial and its freshwater creeks provided habitat for Sydney’s only population of Gondwanan climbing fish. This area provides vital green lungs for Sydney -so close to its concrete heart.

The Beaches Link project will rip out thousands of trees and many acres of rare biodiversity whilst polluting the precious waterways that ultimately flow into Manly Lagoon. Clearing vegetation on the narrow escarpment between Garigal National Park and Manly Dam will have a brutal effect on a much-loved sanctuary. The Construction of concrete water quality tanks alongside this road will add to the environmental degradation as will the exhaust towers that will emit toxic fumes both here and at 3 other places (near schools). The EIS pointedly declared that the environmental protection was a priority. But the widespread bulldozing of threatened species habitat in this area (including the surplus Sydney Water Land at Seaforth-which would be totally cleared for a construction site)-contradicts this.

The fact that Burnt Bridge Creek’s flow would be reduced by 97% and that Middle Harbour would be at dire risk from the disturbance of sediments also reveals the lack of care and consideration for irreplaceable natural assets.

The Western Harbour and Beaches Link is an archaic proposal which would increase traffic on arterial roads and doesn’t even include a public transport component. The successful B Line bus service which has reduced traffic and the potential public transport corridor from Chatswood to Dee Why has not even been a consideration in planning.

The fact that The Business case for this project has not been made public and that community consultation has been totally inadequate, speaks volumes. This lack of transparency suggests that there are many factors within this proposal that will be widely condemned.

Other options are on the table, which include underground rapid public transport alternatives. Please let’s consider those properly (and the fact that working habits have changed and traffic has been reduced) before endorsing badly planned toll roads that don’t belong in a modern, innovative society.