

**Submission  
No 412**

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

**Name:** Mr Michael Merrigan

**Date Received:** 17 June 2021

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I am a home owner in \_\_\_\_\_, North Balgowlah for almost 25years. I object to the Tunnel strenuously. It doesn't have a light rail and has no dedicated Bus lane. It is being built to purely appeal to the Toll operators. It will cause congestion and rat runs on the roads around the Seaforth/Balgowlah area by people avoiding the prohibitive tolls.

While it is being built the workers will not have an area big enough to park their private vehicles and as such will be a total disaster for residents.

I object to the total loss of green area that is the Balgowlah Golf course. The loss of such mature trees is a total travesty for the birds and other wild life. It is natural green space which will be gone forever. I object to the reduction in water flow by 94% of the stream flowing through the deviation as stated in the EIS report. This will decimate the vegetation and wild life reliant on the water abundance.

I object to the waste water being sent to Manly Lagoon and thus polluting Queenscliff Beach with heavy metal pollutant, making water swimming and water sports harmful for swimmers and our young Nippers.

I object to the total non - filtering of the exhaust stacks. This is in an area full of kindergardens and preschools .There is also Balgowlah Boys high school and North Balgowlah public school. The toxins and pollutants that will cause bronchial problems among children and the elderly are totally irresponsible. These unfiltered stacks will rain down on the residents for the life of the tunnel causing guaranteed health problems in the future. When the government was in opposition Gladys Berejiklian said about the Lane Cove Tunnel "Members of parliament should examine their conscience and consider how they would feel if their children or loved ones were exposed to this level of fumes every day...world's best practice is to filter tunnels". Why is this tunnel unfiltered?

I object to the dredging up of toxic sludge during the construction of the water tunnels polluting the pristine area of middle Harbour and its environs. It is a fact that the pollution curtains do not work 100% and pollution of the Clontarf swimming area is inevitable.

I object to the further loss of some of Manly Dams area, the loss of vegetation flora and fauna due to road developments and the loss of an animal corridor for our native animals.

I summarise my objections here , 1 Local traffic gets worse.2. There is insufficient traffic to fill the toll road requirement.3.Military road problem doesn't get solved. 4. Infrastructure NSW rates it as a low priority project. 5. The need to feed cars into Westconnex should not be the driver for this project. 6. Public transport alternatives are not compared nor is public transport substantially benefited. 7 .The modelling relies on pre Covid and outdated data. 8. The project has a very high cost and low evidenced benefit.9. The travel time saved quoted don't add up.10. There is a questionable Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), it has not been released to the public.