

**Submission
No 416**

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

Name: Ms Leanne Williams

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To build the Beaches Tunnel I believe the extreme level of environmental destruction cannot be justified. It includes:

- more than 2,000 trees cut down with no local offset,
- killing a rare and valuable flying fox colony by removing their drinking water,
- wrecking Burnt Bridge Creek forevermore by effectively turning it into a drain;
- increasing the flooding threat downstream in Manly Lagoon;
- ruining the ecology and heritage of Manly Dam;
- placing massive unfiltered exhaust stacks near schools, childcare centres and homes.

It is all beyond acceptable and will have both short term and long term negative impacts.

It cannot be justified in order to let more and more cars onto the road. If this tunnel must be built it must be built to avoid this level of environmental and social destruction.

In place of a tunnel we really need much better public transport improvements. The government has recently reduced bus services in this area in order to privatise them. Since December 2020 it is no longer possible to get a direct bus to North Sydney from the Wakehurst Parkway area and now takes two or three buses. I now drive my car as a result. I would prefer to catch a bus. The government is contributing to excess vehicles on the road by not providing an efficient and accessible transport system. Public transport solutions are what needs to be improved and not a \$14 billion tunnel that will only encourage more and more cars onto the road and destroy both the amenity and the beautiful environment that we are currently so lucky to live near. As we become more and more concerned about the need to reduce our carbon footprints in this world the tunnel is surely a retrograde step.