

Submission
No 462

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Confidential

Date June 18th, 2021

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC
Chair
Public Works Committee
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
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Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to an inquiry regarding these projects. We strongly object to the Western Harbour Tunnel (including the Warringah Freeway Upgrade) and Beaches Link (including the Gore Hill extension) projects and urge you to recommend that the NSW Government abandon these plans immediately.

I have been living in Northbridge for over fifty years. I have been attending aqua aerobics classes bi-weekly at Willoughby Leisure Centre for twenty years and am worried about the amounts of air and noise pollution that will be generated by the adjacent Flat Rock dive site activity. Many of us seniors rely on these classes for our physical, mental and social wellbeing and it appears that this development site will be very disruptive, not only for the Leisure Centre but to the nearby Hallstrom Park where a group of us meet regularly for picnics. See Term of Reference **(l)** [the impact of the project on nearby public sites](#)

Relating to Term of Reference **(f)** [the consultation methods and effectiveness, both with affected communities and stakeholders](#), there has been very little transparency and effort to engage with the local community. I went to my local member's office and inquired about the project and how it would affect Northbridge. The staff had no information other than to hand me a 126 page NSW Govt guide to the EIS.

After reading this document and searching online I still do not have a clear picture of the *intended route of this tunnel through Northbridge*. I am concerned about possible damage to my house as a result of vibration from tunneling which - according to Page 48 of the Comm Guide to the EIS – will take place 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This is especially in light of the state government's unsympathetic handling of previous complaints about damage caused to houses by tunnelling in other parts of Sydney. See **(k)** [the adequacy of processes for accessing and responding to noise, vibration and other impacts on residents, during construction and operationally](#),

I have returned to Northbridge to help care for my mother during covid. I regularly walk

the bush trails throughout the foreshore of middle harbour and Tunks Park into Flat Rock Gully. I still swim and study at Northbridge Baths, where I learned to swim and spent much of my growing years. Clive Park, Tunks Park, Northbridge Sailing Club, Warner's Park and Northbridge Baths are very special serene places where locals and other Sydney residents go to enjoy nature and explore. The indigenous elements of this area need to be protected for further study and understanding about the original inhabitants of the land. See ToR **(j)** [the impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems,](#)
There do not seem to be any serious impact studies on the changes to water quality, marine life and bush fauna and flora around Sailor's Bay, not to mention sound pollution from this massive project. For example regarding dredging what are the assessments regarding toxicity levels in the water?

Quality of life will be greatly affected by the increase in noise, air pollution and traffic in this area. According to the EIS there will be 70 trucks per hour transporting heavy loads travelling on Flat Rock Drive to and from the dive site for five years. Again see **(k)** [the adequacy of processes for accessing and responding to noise, vibration and other impacts on residents, during construction and operationally,](#)

I do not drive; I use public transport daily to Chatswood, Crows Nest, the CBD and Balmain for work and study. It appears that this government is favouring private vehicles as the preferred mode of transport by building more and more toll roads and tunnels throughout the greater Sydney area. In the face of climate change it is beyond shortsighted. Who is this project benefitting and where is this huge demand by the Northern Beaches residents for a tunnel? I have not seen any evidence of it.