

**Submission
No 484**

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

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The WHT EIS and Submissions Report (09/2020) did not adequately consider impacts of the construction of the tunnel on the marine environment of Sydney Harbour. This includes the effects of resuspension and redistribution of contaminated sediments and toxicants. Chemical sediment analyses were not included in the Submissions Report, but media reports (SMH, February 2021) indicate high levels of banned and harmful toxic chemicals (e.g. dioxins, mercury, arsenic, TBT) from the industrial legacy of the Berry's Bay construction support site. Construction activities, dredging, piling and vessel movements will likely disturb contaminated sediments and impact marine biodiversity as well as human health.

In particular, Sydney Harbour hosts highly valued, threatened and protected marine life, including corals (*Plesiastrea versipora*, *Coscinaraea mcneillyi*, the endemic *Pocillopora aliciae*), white's seahorse, seadragons, fairy penguins, black cod, grey nurse shark, turtles and many other threatened species including the pink soft coral *Dendronephthya australis* that are likely going to be impacted from this work.