

Submission  
No 485

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 6 July 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Committee Members,

RE: Parliamentary Enquiry for the Beaches Link

I would like to make a submission for the above parliamentary enquiry.

I am the property owner of \_\_\_\_\_ and co-owner of \_\_\_\_\_ Balgowlah.

My concerns regarding this project are as follows:

\* The original plan for the project was abruptly changed from a road going through Balgowlah golf course to the demolition of all homes in Dudley Street, this occurred without consultation of the residents. At general meetings, residents of Dudley Street were reassured that demolition of the street would not occur. The change was abrupt and without avenues for discussion. There were no other alternatives proposed.

\* The proposed reduction of traffic on Military Road is minimal (33%) compared to the cost of the project. The data collected for current traffic trends was at least 5 years old.

\* With the advent of covid there has been a significant reduction of traffic. The government has not proposed any alternatives for example extra bus services to connect the northern beaches. Many residents oppose the construction of the tunnel as they do not approve encouraging more cars on the road, they would prefer strategies to get cars off the road.

\* The timelines given to different residents for the project are not consistent which causes great distress for residents. Each resident has been given different information from the Department of Transport.

\* This parliamentary enquiry timeline doesn't correlate with the project's timeline, that is, this enquiry could still be in the pre-reporting stage at the time that residents must leave their properties.

\* Residents were not informed about this parliamentary enquiry, Department of Transport did not keep residents updated about this enquiry and hence many did not have the opportunity to contribute. I have informed two of my neighbours as they did not know anything about this enquiry.

\* Initial property values given by the Department of Transport are undervalued and require owners to strongly refute these offers for lengthy periods. The department is not considering the current property market. This is extremely stressful and upsetting for residents.

\* My property cannot be easily replaced as it is a property that has been in my family for over 50 years, my father constructed and recently renovated the property. The emotional turmoil that this project has caused cannot be described and is compounded by disinformation and undervaluation of properties.

\* Environmental concerns for the project have not been fully considered by the project, there are online articles that suggest that the environmental impacts could be disastrous for the local ecosystems. The natural areas affected are the Balgowlah Golf course, the lake/bush walk area at the bottom of Dudley Street, the numerous natural fauna in the street.

\* There are many air stacks that are required in different streets, many residents oppose these as they are concerned about the air quality.

\* The properties in Hope Street Seaforth have been informed that they could be structurally affected by the vibrations during the construction.

I give permission for my submission to be published but without my name and address.

Thank you for considering my submission.