

Submission
No 491

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

Name: Mr John Hooper

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I'm against the Western Harbour Tunnel & Beaches Link as it is a waste of Public Money investing in expensive public infrastructure to benefit a relevantly small population and to promote the use of motor vehicles. The proposed Link is short sighted as it is an investment connecting to an existing road network that is subject to sea level rise as it hugs the low lying areas along the Northern Beaches coast requiring further investment in the future to defend this system whereas a much better investment would be an tunnel (bridge) extension of the rail system from Chatswood to Dee Why where the rail system would branch north to Mona Vale and south to Manly using the high ground behind the proposed low lying existing road system. Such an investment would benefit Sydney for 100 years or more, it would be resistant to climate change level rise, it would remove the dependence of the northern beaches on car transport and help meet State and National emissions targets. Investing in Public Transport and not enabling and expansion of car usage on the Northern Beaches is sensible. I urge the committee to abandon this folly and recommend an investment in expanding the rail network from Chatswood. By doing so, the pressure on the existing road system by peak hour commuters will lessen providing a more efficient road network for delivery and support vehicles. Such a rail route would provide quick access to the new Northern beaches Hospital and to the Royal North Shore hospital etc