

**Submission
No 517**

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

Name: Mr Justin Davies

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Dear Public Works Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to an inquiry regarding these troubling projects. I 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.

My de-facto partner, Brigitta Merchant, has written a far more comprehensive submission but I wish to add my voice to hers and the rest of the community asking for transparency, accountability and environmental best practice in relation to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link Project.

My submissions particularly address your terms regarding:

(c) the cost of the project, including the reasons for overruns,
It has been reported in yesterday's media (SMH 17/06/21) That the expected cost of the Western Tunnel and Northern Beaches Link is expected to be closer to \$21billion. This is a shocking amount of money for a project that is not high on Infrastructure Australia's priority list. This money could much better be spent on a sustainable large scale public transport project or in our regional areas where infrastructure seems to be so often ignored.

h) whether the NSW Government should publish the base-case financial model and benefit cost ratio for the for the project and its component parts,

This project is to be paid for with tax payers money and the tax payer has a right to see how that money is spent and if responsible financial decisions are being made by our elected government.

(i) whether the project is subject to the appropriate levels of transparency and accountability that would be expected of a project delivered by a public sector body,
As above, any project delivered by a public body must be transparent and held accountable by the public that it serves.

(j) the impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems,
The loss of Burnt Bridge Creek (the EIS has craftily not stated that it will be lost but it is hard to see how it can be sustained if the admitted 95% of water is as expected lost). Will be devastating to the North Balgowlah and Seaforth communities. It is an often used place for wildlife watching, family walks and bike rides. We are blessed to have such greenspaces so close to the centre of our cities why are the government trying so hard to rid us of them? It will also have a knock on effect on our lagoons and coast line as it is the key water feeder to Queenscliff. I am also concerned about the plan to dredge known toxic sludge to dig the tunnel will result in poisoned marine life and impact our existing marine life (shark) breeding areas. There is so much of concern noted in the EIS that is difficult to know where to start.

Please feel free to publish my name.

Kind Regards,

Justin Davies