

**Submission  
No 522**

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

**Name:** Mr William Colwell

**Date Received:** 18 June 2021

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A TALE OF TWO GOLF COURSES

I am making this submission as a personal matter but as a Past President of Balgowlah Golf Club Ltd, I obviously have background knowledge that I believe is relevant.

Both Cammeray Golf Club and Balgowlah Golf Club will be impacted by proposed State Government related infrastructure projects. Both will be used as construction sites during the building phase of the related road and tunnel works – Cammeray as part of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade and Balgowlah as part of the Beaches Link Tunnel.

However, the treatment of the two Golf Clubs by the State Government is very different as illustrated in the November 2019 Project Updates and subsequent bulletins:

Western Harbour Tunnel	Beaches Link Tunnel
<p>Roads and Maritime Services said</p> <p>“We are planning to use Government-owned land within Cammeray Golf Course near the Warringah Freeway during construction and for some permanent facilities.</p> <p>We are working closely with the Cammeray Golf Club to develop a strategy that will minimise impacts to the people who use the course and have included provisions for the Golf Course to remain open as a nine hole course, if desired.”</p> <p>“Areas of Cammeray Golf Course not required for permanent project infrastructure would be “reinstated and rehabilitated” once works are completed.”</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime Services said</p> <p>Almost nothing -</p> <p><i>In the Beaches Link Update, there is only a passing reference to “opportunity for new open space at Balgowlah Golf Course site” and some oblique references to “the new recreational precinct” and “sporting and recreational facilities”</i></p>

**Sources:** Wester Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade – Community Update November 2019 and Beaches Link – Community Update November 2019 and other updates.

Despite the concern expressed by the State Government for Cammeray Golf Club, the Government is happy to wipe Balgowlah Golf Club from the face of the earth without any consideration for its important environmental habitats, its members, the golfing public and its 95 year history of being a good custodian of that land.

**Perhaps it is just a coincidence that Cammeray Golf Club is located in the State Premier’s electorate of Willoughby and that THE PREMIER, GLADYS BEREJIKILIAN, WAS (and I believe, still is) THE PATRON OF CAMMERAY GOLF CLUB.**

As a resident and a member of Balgowlah Golf Club have been extremely disappointed and disillusioned with the so-called consultation process by RMS. Not only was the Club and residents to the East of Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation not consulted or advised prior to the Government’s announcement in July 2018 that the whole of Balgowlah Golf Course would

be taken and used as a tunnel construction site but the Club's detailed submission to RMS in November 2018 was not even acknowledged let alone responded to.

It seems that dealing with Balgowlah Golf Club is regarded by the State Government as a "done deal" – the Government believes it can do what it likes with the land, so there's no point in engaging with the club even though it has been the custodian of the land for over 95 years. That appears to be the attitude!

There was no prior consultation and the Club and local Balgowlah residents have been pretty much ignored ever since.