

**Submission
No 535**

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

Name: Ms Catherine Whitty

Date Received: 18 June 2021

The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC Chair

Parliamentary Inquiry into the impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link 18 June 2021

Dear Honourable Member Mookhey

This submission summarises my concerns in relation to the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) project.

1) the tunnel as planned will disturb many decades of highly toxic sludge that has settled to the harbour sea floor. There are no guaranteed ways for this sludge to be properly managed during its removal in preparation for the laying of the precast concrete tunnel sections to be laid on the harbour floor. Were the tunnel to go ahead, the only solution is to have this section of tunnel bored through rock under the harbour, so as not to disturb the toxic sludge layer on the sea bed.

2) I operate with my husband an architectural business from my home office at the end of Louisa Road.

This is directly adjacent Yurulbin Park, that will serve as a dive site for the tunnel boring machine. Based on my experience of local foundation material, having built several houses along this road over the years, and having recently experienced the construction of the new ferry wharf and the problematic issues that arose through ground borne vibration during piling, I believe the tunnelling operation will have detrimental impact on many housing structures that will sit above the tunnel route. To this end we believe should the tunnel proceed, vibration monitors should be set-up at the dive site, with the data logs accessible to any affected houses near or along the tunnelling operations, for use in substantiating any future claims against the tunnel builders for damage as a result of the build process.

3) Beautiful Yurulbin Point Park will be decimated during the planned construction phase over many years. This is a public park with many trees and recreational amenity. Just about all the existing trees in the park are planned for removal during the construction phase. this should not be allowed to happen.

4) this tunnel is another expensive toll road that cannot be justified with a sound business case. It will lead to local roads being clogged as preferred, non-tolled rat-runs.

Please in the first instance consider abandoning the proposal for this tunnel altogether. However should it proceed, dig the tunnel deeper, under the sea floor, and provide some safeguards for residents against the possible damage to their homes and an avenue to claim compensation should damage occur.

regards,
Catherine Whitty