

Submission
No 544

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

Name: Mrs Ann Gray

Date Received: 18 June 2021

To The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry investigating the planning of the Western Harbour and Beaches Link Tunnels.

I object to the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel

I have lived in Seaforth for 48 years and expected to continue to do so. Since I heard of the projected Beaches Link tunnel I have attended multiple information sessions, provided by the RMS and community groups before the pandemic. Since then I have attended all sessions via zoom.

In addition I have attempted to read and digest as much of the E.I.S released at the end of December 2020 as I was able. It was an outrageous affront to release that report at Christmas time in the midst of a pandemic and indeed as it happened a lock down on the Northern beaches, knowing perfectly well ordinary members of the public would not have the time or knowledge to read and digest it by March 1st.

It was thanks to local community members giving their time and expertise to provide a synopsis that I read as much as I did.

I have not seen or heard anything in the last 3 years that convinced me this project is necessary nor suitable for the Northern Beaches.

I therefore object to this project on the following grounds;

Above all the disruption, noise, pollution and destruction of the local area.

Noise from constant tunnelling under people's homes. There is no plan explanation of what will be used for noise mitigation.

And removal of the so called spoil.

Wakehurst parkway to be widened, involving trucks going in and out of the working area 24/7 travelling through residential areas, near schools, potentially putting children at risk. As there is no explanation in the EIS to say which directions spoil trucks will go I don't think proper consideration has been given to this aspect at all.

I live near Frenchs Forest Rd which contains a primary school and an aged care development, a narrow winding street that would be dangerous for all road uses if spoil trucks will be travelling constantly.

Balgowlah golf course is to be all but destroyed and turned into another works area. That is directly opposite Balgowlah boys high school, current enrolment around 900. If this project were to go ahead that means some children will spend their entire secondary school life in the middle of a construction zone.

Workers parking in local streets.

I live in Seaforth, an old suburb with narrow streets and little parking. What are locals expected to do if construction workers are occupying all street parking? The EIS mentions Pickworth St as a parking area for them. The noise you now hear is locals laughing. Pickworth is always full. This points up how little consideration has really been given to how local residents would be impacted by the project.

There would be a huge impact on fauna at Burnt Bridge Creek and Manly Dam and on the Wakehurst Parkway.

Toxic sludge disturbance in Middle Harbour and Berry's Bay is already a problem. Not enough research has gone into dealing with this issue.

The NSW State Govt is proposing to spend upwards of 15 BILLION on a tunnel that will take at least 7 years to build. Causing noise, pollution and disruption to people's lives and health ,putting children at risk from heavy trucks passing through residential areas,near schools. And in the end, it would achieve very little. According to traffic experts from UTS the time saving bypassing Military Rd would be minimal.

If this project were to go ahead, it would be an appalling waste of public money

The current pandemic has proved many workers can work effectively from home and want to continue doing so. If there was ever a demand for a road tunnel it no longer exists.

What is needed is better public transport not a road tunnel.

The money required for this project could achieve so much more if funnelled into public transport solutions.