

Submission
No 555

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

18 June 2021

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC
Chair
Public Works Committee
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to an inquiry in regards these regarding these disturbing 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.

First, a little about me. My name is _____ and I have lived in Naremburn for 22 years. My family and I consider ourselves to be very much part of the community of Naremburn and utilise all of the local amenities, including Tunks park. I also have a young son who attends Cammeray Public School. Two of my children suffer from asthma and I am gravely concerned that they will be impacted negatively by the proposed works. I utilise both the bus and train networks and am at a loss to understand how adding toll roads instead of more public transport could possibly be advantageous for the health of our area and indeed the Northern Beaches and Sydney as a whole. My reasons are further outlined in relation to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

I have previously submitted a detailed submission to NSW Government Major Projects (_____ on 1/3/21) outlining my concerns and reasons as to why I object to these projects. Please find a copy of this document at the bottom of this letter. I have cross referenced my submission with your terms below:

(a) the adequacy of the business case for the project, including the cost benefits ratio,

The lack of the release of a business case for this project is very concerning. The numbers that have been released in terms of travel time savings do not seem to have any real basis, and with people changing their habits due to COVID-19, this project is much pain, but not proven gain. The EIS shows that the travel times in a few years will hardly show any improvement.

(b) the adequacy of the consideration of alternative options,

The Northern Beaches need viable public transport and that hasn't been looked into. The EIS confirms this and this is not acceptable. This project is a white elephant. Another toll road, more expense to Sydney siders. This will impact me personally as more people will be rat running and avoiding these high tolls. This will make our streets more unsafe and busier.

(f) the consultation methods and effectiveness, both with affected communities and stakeholders,

Naremburn already had the pain of being split as a suburb when the freeway was put in decades ago. We are now being forced to endure a project that makes no sense, and that will affect our lives daily as well as our house prices. There will most probably be damage to our properties from the drilling as has been seen in the inner west. And my understanding is that no one has had any of this damage rectified to date.

(j) the impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems,

The known contamination in Flat Rock gully. Disturbing this old tip site that has been carefully and lovingly brought back to usability over the last 30 years poses real health risks to those living and going to school in the area. Further the EIS makes clear that contaminants have been found in the groundwater around the tip site. The unfiltered stacks add insult to injury in this project. Our youngest is still at a local public school in Cammeray and if this project goes ahead there will be health impacts for these young children. There will be extra particulates in the air due to these stacks. My daughter suffers from acute asthma and we have big concerns for her health with this project.

(k) the adequacy of processes for accessing and responding to noise, vibration and other impacts on residents, during construction and operationally,

The Health and Well Being of the local residents will be impacted. The EIS attests to this. The noise, dust and traffic will be terrible for the living in the area for at least 5 years during the project.

(l) the impact of the project on nearby public sites, including Yurulbin Point and Dawn Fraser Baths,

The Bushland that we as local residents enjoy will be destroyed to enable this project. Our lifestyle will be greatly hampered by this. My family and I walk through this area several times a week as do hundreds local residents. **(m) any other related matter.**

I would be pleased to have my name published alongside this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Naremburn NSW 2065

EIS Submission

Comment / Message

I strongly object to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill extension due to the EIS and the complete lack of a business case for this project.

I have been a resident of Naremburn for the last 21 years. I know my area well and this project is not only the wrong project for Sydney as a whole but also for the health and well being of local Naremburn residents due to:

1. The known contamination in Flat Rock gully. Disturbing this old tip site that has been carefully and lovingly brought back to usability over the last 30 years poses real health risks to those living and going to school in the area. Further the EIS makes clear that contaminants have been found in the groundwater around the tip site.
2. The Health and Well Being of the local residents will be impacted. The EIS attests to this. The noise, dust and traffic will be terrible for the living in the area for at least 5 years during the project.
3. The Bushland that we as local residents enjoy will be destroyed to enable this project. Our lifestyle will be greatly hampered by this. My family and I walk through this area several times a week as do hundreds local residents.
4. The lack of the release of a business case for this project is very concerning. The numbers that have been released in terms of travel time savings do not seem to have any real basis, and with people changing their habits due to COVID-19, this project is much pain, but not proven gain. The EIS shows that the travel times in a few years will hardly show any improvement.
5. The Northern Beaches need viable public transport and that hasn't been looked into. The EIS confirms this and this is not acceptable. This project is a white elephant. Another toll road, more expense to Sydney siders. This will impact me personally as more people will be rat running and avoiding these high tolls. This will make our streets more unsafe and busier.
6. The unfiltered stacks add insult to injury in this project. Our youngest is still at a local public school in Cammeray and if this project goes ahead there will be health impacts for these young children. There will be extra particulates in the air due to these stacks. My daughter suffers from acute asthma and we have big concerns for her health with this project.
7. Naremburn already had the pain of being split as a suburb when the freeway was put in decades ago. We are now being forced to endure a project that makes no sense, and that will affect our lives daily as well as our house prices. There will most probably be damage to our properties from the drilling as has been seen in the inner west. And my understanding is that no one has had any of this damage rectified to date.

This project has been rushed through and is not the best use of \$14B billion. This project will mean that our lives will be deeply disrupted on multiple levels for many years. There

is no plan from the government to mitigate anything that has been brought up by residents. Our children are at real risk of illness and ongoing health problems from this project. Therefore I object to this project due to the information contained in the EIS.

Your sincerely,
Naremburn Resident