

**Submission
No 563**

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

Name: Ms Jan Knight

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Western Harbour & Beaches Link Tunnels

The Terms of Reference and my concerns are as follows:

- a) The adequacy of the business case for the project, including the cost benefits ratio,***
- c) The cost of the project, including the reasons for overruns,***

My concerns are as follows:

- The business case has not been released.
- There is no cost justification for a minimum spend of \$16.8 billion.
- There are no positive “clever” initiatives that will validate the construction, either now or in the future. For example, putting the supporting infrastructure buildings underground.
- There is very little synergy with other Government planning initiatives. For example, protecting green space, protecting mature trees, providing effective public transport, providing cycleways, providing pleasant “village” environments.

- b) The adequacy of the consideration of alternative options,***

My concerns are as follows:

- There is no detailed analysis of feasible alternatives, in particular alternative transport options.
- There is no detailed analysis of the multiple negative impacts on the environment, including the loss of green space, the diminished air quality, the Sydney Basin weather effect. And there are very few suggestions as to ameliorating possibilities.
- There is no analysis of the negative impacts on the health of the community of the North Sydney LGA and the largest school community in Australia.

- g) The extent to which changes in population growth, work, and travel patterns due to COVID pandemic have impacted the original cost benefit ratio.***

My concerns are as follows:

- There is no provision for the impact of COVID on the life, work and travel habits of the population.
- There are no initiatives that will ameliorate the negative impacts on traffic flows, peak hour failure points, street parking, and pedestrian access in the North Sydney LGA.
- There seems very little justification in terms of traffic improvement for those travelling from the Northern Beaches, or along Military Road. Versus the introduction of very adverse conditions for the LGA, the loss of connectivity and the forcing of local traffic onto longer, more circuitous routes.

- j) The impact on the environment, including marine ecosystems.***

My concerns are as follows:

- The unfiltered emission stacks to be located at the Ernest Street Bridge will be expelling pollution from the Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Tunnel. This location is near homes, schools, playing fields. In addition, this area is subject to the Sydney Basin effect, whereby particles cannot escape up into the atmosphere under certain weather conditions. Ongoing climate change could exacerbate the Sydney Basin effect and further impact air quality.

- The increased traffic issues and intersection failure will further impact air quality.
- Loss of 3,000 trees.
- Disruption of wildlife corridors, and potential extinction for a wide range of invertebrates.
- There is insufficient analysis of the risks associated with managing the waste associated with the construction. One factor is the potential risk to marine and land eco-systems; the other factor is the potential risks associated with storing and transporting this waste through our suburbs.

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

My concerns are as follows:

- Public sites, particular public parks and playing fields are in great demand in the Lower North Shore. This project removes 2.8Ha from Cammeray Golf Course. It also puts Tunks Park at risk, because of the potential impact of disturbed toxic waste.

m) Any other related matter.

My concerns are as follows:

- Overall, the negatives associated with this project seem to greatly outweigh the positives. To list some of the negatives:
 - Air quality during construction, due to construction dust, toxic waste handling and storage, emission associated with >900 truck movements per day.
 - Air quality on completion, due to unfiltered emission stacks.
 - Contamination risks to marine and land eco-systems.
 - Contamination risks to water quality.
 - Ground born noise and vibrations, for some people 24/7.
 - Ground subsidence impact.
 - Traffic impacts, including flow, safety and noise associated with more than 900 truck movements per day on Flat Rock Drive.
 - Loss of green space at Cammeray Golf Course, the possible construction of a very ugly building and the impact of losing that water supply for North Sydney's parks.
 - Traffic chaos for North Sydney, due to tunnel entry/exit points and street closures.
 - Increased difficulty for accessing expressway routes.
 - Increased difficulty for accessing local amenities, including schools, shopping precincts, playing fields.
 - A resulting loss of spirit within our community.
 - Personal financial concerns in relation to property values in the North Sydney LGA.