

Submission
No 523

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Date

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

Public.Works@parliament.nsw.gov.au

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2767#tab-submissions>

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 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. I have lived in the lower north shore of Sydney since moving to NSW in 1989 and in particular have lived in Artarmon for the close to 18 years. My family and I enjoy exercising our dogs by walks near and around Artarmon reserve. I catch the train to work daily and am a big believer in public transport the way of the future to keep our emissions lower and look after the environment. We should be improving the public transport infrastructure rather than increasing car journey. I also consider that the cost of using Sydney roads has become prohibitive and a drain on family financial resources. My reasons are further outlined in relation to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Please find attached this submission and cross reference to your terms below:

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

No business case has been released to the public. Reported cost at the time of printing is \$14-\$15 Billion for both projects.

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

Alternative options should be comprehensively scoped or compared to a toll road tunnel option. The option to address congestion via a dedicated mass transit solution ie light rail, metro or rail has not been adequately considered.

(c) the cost of the project, including the reasons for overruns,

The project admits that further testing and risk assessment is required to fully assess multiple levels of risk including serious contamination found in the Harbour and at Middle Harbour dredge sites and dive sites such as Flat Rock Gully (ex-landfill). Cost blow outs and delays associated with other projects have occurred due to unexpected or unmitigated contamination eg West Gate Tunnel, Victoria.

(d) the consideration of the governance and structure of the project including the use of a 'development partner' model,

I am concerned that there aren't more governance considerations and consultation with the local and impacted communities.

(e) the extent to which the project is meeting the original goals of the project,

I am concerned that the Artarmon area will pick up an increased level of traffic and pollution.

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

I have found the local consultation to be unhelpful and biased towards the project.

(g) the extent to which changes in population growth, work and travel patterns due to the Covid-19 pandemic have impacted on the original cost benefit ratio,

I am concerned that this model does not take into account the recent trend with increased working from home post COVID.

(h) whether the NSW Government should publish the base-case financial model and benefit cost ratio for the for the project and its component parts,

No such model has been published. The project will cost approx. \$1 Billion per Km which seems to be an extraordinary amount of money that will need to be recovered from even further tolls on the Sydney population.

(i) whether the project is subject to the appropriate levels of transparency and accountability that would be expected of a project delivered by a public sector body,

This project has not been presented in a simple to understand manner.

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

I am concerned that this project will have far reaching negative impacts on the environment.

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

This is especially troubling based on news from other large scale projects.

I would like to have my name suppressed.

Yours Sincerely,

Artarmon.