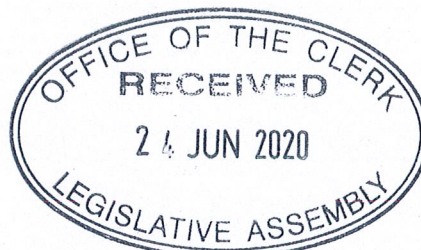




The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads

PQ19/00267

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Minnican

I write in response to the petition lodged on 2 June 2020 by Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP, Member for Coogee, regarding the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program.

Sydney is expanding and the NSW Government is working hard to deliver an integrated transport system that meets the needs of customers now and in the future. The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program is designed to ease congestion throughout Greater Sydney.

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program is a major transport infrastructure program that will make it easier, faster and safer to get around Sydney. As Sydney continues to grow, faster and more reliable trips are essential to reducing congestion and providing new levels of access to jobs, recreation, and services such as schools and hospitals.

Around 4.3 million trips are made across Sydney Harbour each week, making the Warringah Freeway one of the busiest and most complex roads in the country. This program will help to ease pressure on the road network, with a direct connection to WestConnex it will also reduce congestion on the Anzac Bridge, Western Distributor and Sydney Harbour Bridge corridor.

By creating a western bypass of the Sydney CBD, the Western Harbour Tunnel will take pressure off the congested Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Harbour Tunnel and Anzac Bridge. Beaches Link will create an alternative to the Military Road and Warringah Road corridors to relieve traffic pressure on the North Shore.

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program has been designed as part of an integrated transport network, with a focus on new public transport connections and improved journey times and reliability for buses. Beaches Link, for example, will improve B-Line services between the Sydney CBD, North Shore and the Northern Beaches, accommodate new express bus service routes, and provide for a fast and efficient bus interchange with Sydney Metro at North Sydney.

At the same time, the Western Harbour Tunnel will integrate with public transport and boost reliability for cross-harbour bus trips, creating new options for express bus services between the Inner West and Lower North Shore and beyond.

The Western Harbour Tunnel alone will deliver significant time savings for customers, including up to 20 minutes between Leichhardt and North Sydney, 20 minutes between Sydney Olympic Park and North Sydney, and 15 minutes between North Sydney and Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport.

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program is anticipated to support up to 15,000 full-time equivalent jobs during its construction.

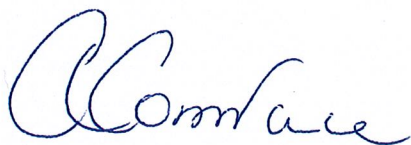
The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment placed the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on public exhibition for 61 days up to 30 March 2020.

I am advised that Transport for NSW is currently preparing a submissions report to respond to the issues raised by the community. I am advised that, once complete, the report will be submitted to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for its consideration and publication as part of the statutory planning approval process.

I am advised that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Beaches Link is earmarked to be placed on public exhibition later this year, at which time the community will again be invited to have their say on this exciting project.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Constance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads**