

30 March 2020

### **Objection to Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade - SSI-8863**

I object to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade. I have done my best to read the extensive EIS documents at this very difficult time and believe the public exhibition of this project should have been placed on hold or radically extended during the current COVID-19 crisis. I am also concerned that there is no public business case to justify this project and the people of NSW will be saddled with an expensive and environmentally damaging, unsustainable option for at least the next 50 years if this project goes ahead. The EIS points to significant risks to health and safety while delivering poor outcomes.

In particular, I object to the project due to the disastrous climate and sustainability outcomes and the negative impact on our precious waterways and green spaces.

- I object to this project because it does nothing to address our rising greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate crisis. We need innovative solutions and support for mass transit and sustainable transit options. The project overall seems to deliver motorists to new places to experience traffic congestion without actually reducing the problem - the traffic itself – all those one-person car trips.
- I object to the continued loss of biodiversity in NSW this project will cause both during construction and operation through removal/ destruction of habitat and pollution of habitats (dredging / disturbance of toxic marine sediments for example). Pockets of green space in urban areas provide food and shelter for many native animals as well as a place where people can connect with and recreate in nature at their local community level without having to travel far. At the Beaches Link end of the tunnel project the destruction of bushland connecting Manly Warringal War Memorial Reserve (Manly Dam) with Garigal National Park will kill flora and fauna (many threatened and endangered species live there) and put at risk the gene pool in both areas by cutting off an important and already tenuous wildlife corridor.
- Water pollution to both freshwater and marine environments (in the harbour as well as offshore thanks to dumping) is not justified for the purported benefits to the community.

I also consider the construction and operational risks are far too high for residents and school children along the route at both geographical ends of this massive project.

- For instance, the cohesive, community-minded suburb of North Balgowlah will be surrounded top and bottom by tunnel exit/entry points and construction sites. Impacts to children and local people from ongoing noise and vibrations over many years during construction, pollution, increased heavy traffic movements, lost community land/green spaces and direct destruction of environmental assets (swaths of bushland removed to widen Wakehurst Parkway) as well as ongoing damage to the environment (such as water runoff impacting on water quality in Manly Dam) is not worth the benefit of a few less minutes on a car trip to the city. Further, there are 2 primary schools and a high school all sited very close to construction areas, tunnel stacks and entry / exit points. Using the precautionary principle these stacks should not be sited anywhere near schools or residences without world class filtering technology.

This project has missed an opportunity to transform Sydney into a world class, healthy and sustainable city with a strong public transport system. At the very least, an alternative public transport feasibility study should

be undertaken and published before any further planning occurs. In this way the impacts and outcomes can be fairly compared and the residents of Sydney can dodge the awful bullet and legacy of environmental destruction and economic waste that is this current project.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Fewster

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North Balgowlah NSW 2093

Declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous 2 years e.g. I have not made any reportable political donations in the past two years.	I have not made any political donations.
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