

## Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade - SSI-8863

Attn: Director, Transport Assessments,  
Planning & Assessment,  
Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

The Western Harbour Tunnel is an ill-considered project involving massive damage to the residential amenity of the Balmain-Rozelle area as well as being an appalling waste of public money at a time when the economy is extremely precarious.

Recent studies have shown that public transport use has already reached levels projected for 2031 yet this expensive white elephant is still under consideration. There has been no benchmarking against public transport alternatives - a serious omission. Studies and practical experience have also shown that while such facilities may improve travel times initially, they are very quickly clogged up by the increase in traffic.

Some adverse effects on the Balmain-Rozelle area at the proposed construction sites and in general include:

- excessive construction noise for residents, including at night.
  - damage to homes by vibration from tunnelling causing cracking, ground movement and settlement. ( This has already occurred in the Westconnex project). The proposed " zone of influence" of 50m is not adequate. Studies have shown that it should be at least 250m. Varying tunnel depths mean that some homes will be more severely impacted than others.
  - increased truck movements on already congested roads.
  - construction workers taking already limited parking.
- And this will go on for years.

There will also be severe adverse and long term health effects on the whole densely populated Balmain-Rozelle area residents by unfiltered exhaust stacks spreading pollution, increased particulate matter and inadequate mitigation of construction and excavation dust.

Another serious health and environmental impact which will also affect Sydney Harbour in general is the disturbance and excavation of 140,000 cubic metres of poisonous sludge from the harbour to be barged to White Bay ostensibly for treatment. This sludge contains dioxins, carcinogens, hydrocarbons, pesticides, heavy metals, and PFAS among others. Details of these have not been released but experts warn that they are extremely dangerous and that the methods proposed for extraction and solidification are seriously flawed. Plumes of toxic sediment will contaminate the Harbour, threatening marine species as well as anyone swimming there. This is clearly unacceptable.

This appalling project must be abandoned before further damage is done and more taxpayers' money wasted.

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