

[REDACTED]
BIRCHGROVE NSW 2041

9 March 2020

Attention: Director, Transport Assessments
Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning,
Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Objection: Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade – SSI-8863

As residents of [REDACTED] Birchgrove, we write to express our strong objection to this project. Global experience of toll road construction demonstrates conclusively that projects such as this increase air pollution, encourage more car use, increase expenses for road users, and eventually fill the increased road capacity that has been created.

We object to this project because of the following:

- It will not achieve its stated goal of addressing long-term traffic congestion in Sydney.
- It fails to adequately address impacts on the community especially noise, air quality and health of residents.
- It puts homes and businesses at risk of damage from vibrations, settlement and ground movement.
- Unfiltered toxic gases will be pumped out over many suburbs.
- The excavations for the immersed tube tunnel will pollute our Harbour with toxic sediment putting marine life at risk.
- It is not justified by any publicly released business case.

We are particularly concerned about the impact on our homes and our day-to-day lives. The EIS for the project has not sufficiently addressed the problems that are very likely to occur. The EIS also fails to address details such as the area of potential impact, compensation measures, and methods of monitoring the vibrations.

We are also extremely concerned that any tunnel built under the Birchgrove ridge maybe so shallow that properties all along Louisa Road will be damaged and the residents will be subject to intolerable noise.

The proposal to use an immersed tube tunnel must be revised and the tunnel should instead be formed by drilling through the rock. The enormous environmental impact and cost of an immersed tunnel should not be ignored.

We urge your department to reassess this project and ensure that the issues we have raised are resolved before any further approvals are made to the construction company.

Yours sincerely

Susan Ridd and Tony Hill