

12 March 2020

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

Dear Sir:

Re: Objection to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade - SSI-8863

I am a visitor from Canada, that travels to Australia regularly to volunteer on seabird research and island restoration projects. My base in Australia is in Leichhardt area. I very much appreciate the clean air, excellent community, public transport and green space that gives Leichhardt it's unique character. No doubt, it is these characteristics that support the economic opportunity, high property values and subsequent taxes that support Sydney and Australia. I have also been a witness to the devastating fires and the effects of climate change on Australia. It is with these thoughts that I am writing to express my strong objection to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade.

Global experience of toll road construction has demonstrated conclusively that projects like this increase air pollution, encourage more car use, fleece road users with exorbitant tolls and eventually fill the increased road capacity they create. This leads to increased vehicle use (vs. public transport), increased vehicle emissions and ultimately exacerbates climate change.

I also understand that the project has not included filtration for exhaust coming from the stacks in the tunnel. This increases risk to public health.

My other main objection to the project is that it fails to adequately address impacts on the community: especially noise, air quality and health impacts for local residents. Such a project will change the nature of Leichhardt (in particular Birchgrove) community. The acquisition and demolition of houses in the Leichhardt community will be very disruptive to the peaceful lifestyle I have seen in this community. I understand that it will also put homes and businesses at risk of damage from ground movement, vibrations and subsidence.

The digging for the tunnel across the harbour will unearth toxic and smelly sediments. Has there been adequate study of the impact of the digging on marine life and the ultimate safe disposal of the excavated sediments?

The proposed project is a poor idea and will negatively impact Sydney's reputation as beautiful city that is attractive to visitors such as myself.

Yours truly,

Trudy Chatwin

Trudy Chatwin

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Declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous 2 years	Nil
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