

Isabelle Wheeler

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Blackheath to Little Hartley Upgrade Environmental Impact Statement

SSI-2204371

27th February 2023

I object to the proposal of a road tunnel from Little Hartley to Blackheath.

My reasons are as follows.

The site for the tunnel portals and the Blackheath construction site is wholly within the Blackheath Special Catchment area, which protects Greaves Creek Dam ON Greaves Creek and Lake Medlow on Adams Creek. Residents living between Medlow Bath and Mt Victoria depend on these dams for their water supply.

The negative impacts on the natural environment of the World Heritage Area (downstream beyond the narrow (1500mm) corridor covered by the EIS.

Threatened species, Greater gliders, Large Eared Pied Bat, and a further 8 species are likely to have their habitat affected. This comes after the 2020 bushfires which affected many areas of the Upper Mountains from which the natural habitat is still recovering.

The introduction of 26/30/36m trucks affects the whole of the Great Western Highway 'Freight Corridor' in what is currently the only local road for many villages.

There has been no consultation with any of the Blue Mountains residents about the introduction of these 36m trucks. Only the 26m and the 30m trucks have been mentioned to date.

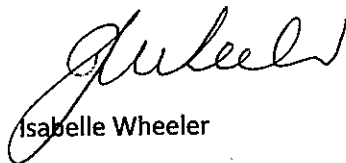
A 30% increase in freight through the Blue Mountains poses significant (high) impact for road users including residents and tourists. What socio-economic studies have assessed this?

Will the 11km tunnel promote tourism? No with ten years or more of traffic chaos, tourist visitation is predicted to drop dramatically.

Negative effects on the iconic downstream tourist attractions (eg The Grand Canyon).

The negative effect on Threatened and endangered species .

The Project requires approval by the Federal Government under the EPBC Act if it is likely to have Significant Impact on matters of National Environment Significance, including World Heritage. In which case it becomes a 'controlled action' under the Federal government legislation and requires the proponent to provide further information and do further assessment.



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