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Director of Transport assessments,  
Planning and Assessment,  
Department Of Planning and Environment,  
Locked Bag 5022,  
Parramatta NSW 2124

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,  
**Re: Great Western Highway Upgrade Program,  
SSI – 22004371**

I have just this morning come up to Medlow Bath and have perused the proposed tunnel between Blackheath and Little Hartley.

It would seem to me to be logical to extend this tunnel commencing from Katoomba rather than trying to upgrade the highway from Katoomba to Blackheath.

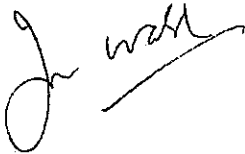
The traffic remaining would be tourist traffic to the Hydro at Medlow Bath and other destinations.

What is the difference in cost between the highway upgrade and the extra 8km of tunnel?

If the proposal is to keep the trucks off the road, an even better solution would be to provide a train transport system as they have in Europe such as in the Channel tunnel where trucks are transported on railcars. There would no need for a tunnel at all.

Another benefit is the trip would be done using electricity rather than diesel.

Yours faithfully,



John Walsh