


I do not want my personal details to be made public



21st February 2023

Director of Transport Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Application Name: Great Western Highway, Blackheath to Little Hartley Tunnel EIS

Application Number: SSI-22004371

Dear Madam/Sir,

I object to the proposal.

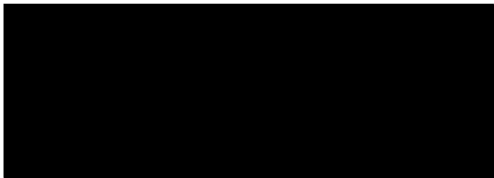
My main reason for lodging this submission and objecting to this proposal is that I am particularly concerned about the impacts the proposed tunnel and its construction might have on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. These must be minimised in every instance. The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is a significant site of international value and a matter of national environmental significance in which all interventions must be thoroughly examined and addressed.

There is a significant risk that the tunnel's construction could also negatively impact aquifers supplying groundwater to groundwater-dependent ecosystems, and their dependent species, along both sides of the proposed tunnel corridor, including within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Changes to water flow because of construction are expected. The continued health of the aquifers is very important.

I am also concerned by the threat of reduced groundwater to the Commonwealth-listed Peat Swamps that align the corridor and the populations of endangered Giant Dragonfly and Blue Mountains Water Skink, both groundwater dependent species that have been recorded in the swamps between Medlow Bath and Mt Victoria. Australia already suffers from the highest level of wildlife extinctions in the world. Disrupting critical habitat for these species only increases the rate and speed of extinction.

A further concern remains for the health of the surface water, in particular Greaves Creek which could be damaged by the tunnelling processes. Despite this EIS being released, I call on the federal government for a full EIS across the entire Great Western Highway project upgrade to ensure that matters of national environmental significance are addressed. The current piecemeal approach, dividing the upgrade into sections for review, is totally inadequate as it will not provide a true understanding of the cumulative impact and long-term consequences for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

For the only planet we have.



I have no reportable political donations (including donations of \$1000 or more) made within the previous two years to declare.