

Johanna Peters

602 / 15 Atchison St

St Leonards

NSW 2065

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway upgrade

I strongly object to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway upgrade proposed for the following personal reasons, and mutual community reasons.

I have lived in the St Leonards/Crows Nest area for 20 years. In that time, I have seen a huge increase in traffic congestion as the population has increased significantly over the past several decades. Public transport has not kept up to service the population/area, and now this upgrade proposed will drive even more traffic into the area and through the freeway.

I am an owner occupier in St Leonards, and a parent to a child that has recently started her education at Anzac Public Park School. This school will be highly impacted by not only the upgrade disruption (6+ years of major construction works), but the increased traffic that upgrade will bring to the area. More toxic fumes, more dangerous roads to cross and less green space. I have grave concerns and fear for the wellbeing of my daughter and the wellbeing of all the children & teachers that attend this school. The plans proposed seemed to be the antithesis of modern transport advances – that is more cars on the roads and less public transport. I'm struggling to understand why anyone in any part of the world, let alone Australia would think this is a good idea. This proposal makes our country look like a backwards nation on the world stage of urban design.

Other areas of major concern and objection are:

- Lack of Filtration and major increase in poor air quality & subsequent impacts on public health – The upgrade clearly leaves the door open for the Northern Beaches Tunnel project to move forward. Possibly one of the worst decisions made to benefit a small population on our beautiful northern beaches' suburbs. More roads space and tunnels for cars does not relieve congestion – it simply brings more cars! Why have you forgotten about public transport?
- Increased traffic congestion on local roads, restricted access to Freeway exits – as mentioned, the small village of Crows Nest and surrounding suburbs have significantly more traffic than they did even 5-years ago. The proposed upgrade will drive even more traffic through the local back streets due to the proposed reduction of freeway exits, and proposed introduction of freeways tolls. This increased traffic poses health and safety risk (e.g. more car and pedestrian collisions), and will make once peaceful communities to live in a congested nightmare.
- Pedestrian impacts across North Sydney CBD and the LGA – the numbers of cars driving into our CBDs seems to have gone up; not down. As more and more commercial and residential building are erected the more pedestrian this brings. Surely a reduction in traffic to highly pedestrianised areas is the aim...not the opposite??

- Loss of open, green space – this is just plain sad. Children and adults all need open spaces for sports, play and leisure. If we have that space taken away, we have another whole societal problem that will have a major impact on our public health systems (e.g. rise in obesity rates, rise in mental health issues etc). Our green spaces are precious and very limited on the lower North Shore....why on earth would you reduce them??

I implore you to revisit the upgrade proposal and look towards countries that have implemented better solutions to similar congestion problems, for design influence and public transport options. I implore you to consider the health of our children – the next generations that will lead our country. I implore you to rethink and better future – less cars and better public transport.

I look forward to seeing a better upgrade plan.

Sincerely,

Johanna Peters