

Nicole Antonini
12 Cairo St
Camberay NSW 2062

The Hon Robert Stokes
Minister for Planning Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Attention: Ms Naomi Moss

30 March 2020

Objection to State Significant Infrastructure Application No. SSI-8863 Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade

As a local over almost 40 years, I am writing to voice my strong objections to these projects for many reasons. I have a young family and am well rooted in the local area. Picking up and moving as so many have already done is simply not an option for me or my family.

COVID-19

Firstly to continue exhibition & "consultation" during the COVID-19 crisis is unbelievable. Thousands have lost their jobs, are unsure how they will pay their rents/mortgages and are already under huge stress trying to navigate these unprecedented times. We are in the middle of a national emergency! Add to that the anxiety of having to try to navigate a 9000 page EIS that has taken a professional team months on months to prepare so that we can try to make our submissions during these stressful times simply shouldn't be happening. The project should be put on hold until well after the COVID-19 Crisis has past, re-exhibiting when lives have returned to somewhat normal. The previous "community consultation" time was almost 3 months yet the public have had no time to navigate, comprehend or digest the enormity of this EIS.

Public Transport

The lack of alternative options explored such as public transport is greatly concerning. In this day and age, while our city grows to actively ignore public transport options beggars belief. There is no room to retrofit these tunnels to take metro or other such modes. At \$16 billion minimum I'd like to understand why even a metro from Dee Why to Chatswood via the new hospital at Frenchs Forest hasn't been optioned. The cost would be minimal and would connect the beaches to Chatswood CBD, Macquarie CBD and various others. Public transport on the North Shore is up and numbers will only increase if a reliable public transport system is available.

Business Case

With no business case released to justify the huge costs. In the impending expectation of a recession I find it hard to believe many would have the funds to travel on these never ending web of toll roads. Sydney is the most tolled road in the world.

Loss of Green Space

With a constant push for higher density living I find any loss of green space completely unacceptable. We are talking about the lungs of our area while we are given in return more pollution to breathe. The Cammeray Golf course is earmarked to become more playing fields something desperately needed in this area. The loss of the dam that residents have paid for that waters our green spaces and helps deal with water from flash storms in a time when water is so valued is plainly wrong. The chipping away of St Leonards Park (both it & Cammeray Golf Course grounds were gifted to the people of North Sydney). Both these green spaces were already greatly diminished for the Warringah Freeway. It is simply not fair that

one portion of the community continue to have it's assets diminished especially in circumstances that will deliver no long term reward to anyone but the Toll owners.

Traffic & Travel Times

With Warringah Freeway already cutting a scar through our communities, connecting with other local areas can already be a challenge. With the removal/changing of so many access points on the freeway it severely limits local connectivity. RMS staff openly admitted that local traffic around our areas will increase. I'm at a loss to understand how a 5 minute time saving (if they are lucky) for a northern beaches resident to reach the city should mean that our local streets that are already congested should suffer more traffic and rat running.

Air Quality

I am greatly concerned for the health of my family. With two children under 4 years old that will live and go to school a few hundred metres from stack billowing unfiltered pollution into the air is completely unacceptable. No other developed country in the world are building tunnels of this length unfiltered. The health implications for thousands of school children, elderly residents and those with compromised health issues makes this project completely unacceptable especially considering that alternative travel options were deliberately ignored.

For all these reasons and many more I implore you to reject this application and go back to the drawing board. Sydney is in great need of congestion solutions but building more tunnels & toll roads at the expense of tax payers and the community is not the solution.

Yours faithfully

Nicole Antonini