

Objection to the Northern Beaches tunnel



To whom it may concern,

I wish to note for the record my very strong objections to the Northern Beaches Tunnel project for the following reasons:

1/ Significant impacts to the Burnt Bridge Creek which is relied on by residents, fauna and flora

I have walked and run along this creek several days a week for the past 22 years. It is one of the only pieces of shady path in North Balgowlah and it is used by cancer sufferers and survivors, young kids on bikes, dog walkers, joggers, the elderly. It is an enormous part of the amenity in North Balgowlah; it is an important track of trees – some of which are enormous – and it is home to many animals and wildlife. Losing current water flow, and having it essentially used as a drain for wastewater is environmentally irresponsible. It is a significant negative impact on local residents.

2/ Loss of habitat and the impacts on wildlife and amenity

The number of trees and bushland that will be destroyed for this project do not justify its gains. As a resident of North Balgowlah we have seen first-hand the terrible impacts on our suburb and local wildlife when the Manly Vale school was recently expanded. The number of dazed and misplaced rock wallabies has been devastating. I can't walk in that area of the bush now without feeling sick to my stomach.

3/ Water degradation

Middle Harbour and Manly Dam need our protection. I am not satisfied that risk of contamination has been adequately addressed in the EIS and plans.

4/ Degradation of Indigenous culture

There are important Indigenous rock carving alongside the Wakehurst Parkway that stand to be lost as a result of this project.

5/ We need these trees and natural habitats to combat global warming

Global warming and habitat destruction and the biggest issues of our time. To even consider destroying so much habitat is completely irresponsible and unjustified.

6/ Noise impacts

I understand from the EIS 4000 homes will be impacted by noise equivalent to or louder than a loud TV. This is unacceptable. I request that the planners undertake a demographic review of residents to identify the percentage that are in high school in Balgowlah and North Balgowlah. I suspect that it is one of the highest percentages in the country. It is not acceptable that their high school years and their studies should be negatively impacted by years of construction noise.

7/ Pollution and air quality impacts.

It is not acceptable that unfiltered stacks will be releasing cancer-causing particles into the air above North Balgowlah and Balgowlah in particular. These stacks must be filtered.

8/ Traffic impacts

The bus routes in North Balgowlah have recently been changed so that they go right through that Frenches Forest Road section where more than 250 trucks a day shall be driving. This will be untenable for our kids trying to get to and from school on public buses and for local residents.

In conclusion, I object to the proposal for the tunnel on the grounds that the benefits do not nearly justify the very significant environmental risk and impacts in one of the most precious parts of our city. I am not confident that adequate planning or community consultation has occurred.

Finally, I am upset that the portal was scheduled for maintenance on the weekend before submissions and objections were closed. This speaks to poor planning and does not inspire confidence.

[REDACTED]