

Nicole Mackenzie

North Balgowlah NSW 2093

27th February 2021

To: Major Projects NSW

Project's responsible planner Belinda.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Andrew Constance office@constance.minister.nsw.gov.au

Cc: James Griffin manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Rob Stokes pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Zali Steggall: zali.steggall.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to the Beaches Link Tunnel road

I write as a concerned resident of North Balgowlah, to voice my objection to the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel and its impacts on our local pre-schools, primary school, our community and the local environment.

I have significant concerns that the impacts of the Tunnel will cause more negative impacts for every person in North Balgowlah than provide benefits and on review of the EIS those concerns are further heightened.

Tunnel justification

The figures put forward in the EIS indicate only a minimal reduction in the traffic flowing through Mosman for a significant and disproportionate use of public funds.

I am concerned that the assumptions for traffic used as justification of the build in the EIS have not been updated to factor in changes to travel habits and working from home due to COVID-19 and into the future, treating COVID-19 as having only a "temporary" impact".

Request - There are many new data points to factor in given the impact of COVID-19 and I request the government to halt the development process to allow for a suitable review, and to publicly release the results of the review and the updated relevant data.

Construction Impact

The construction phase of the project will undoubtedly impact North Balgowlah residents with dust, noise, vibration, and heavy vehicle traffic in the area. North Balgowlah will have construction surrounding most of the suburb and the EIS indicates that during construction there will be:

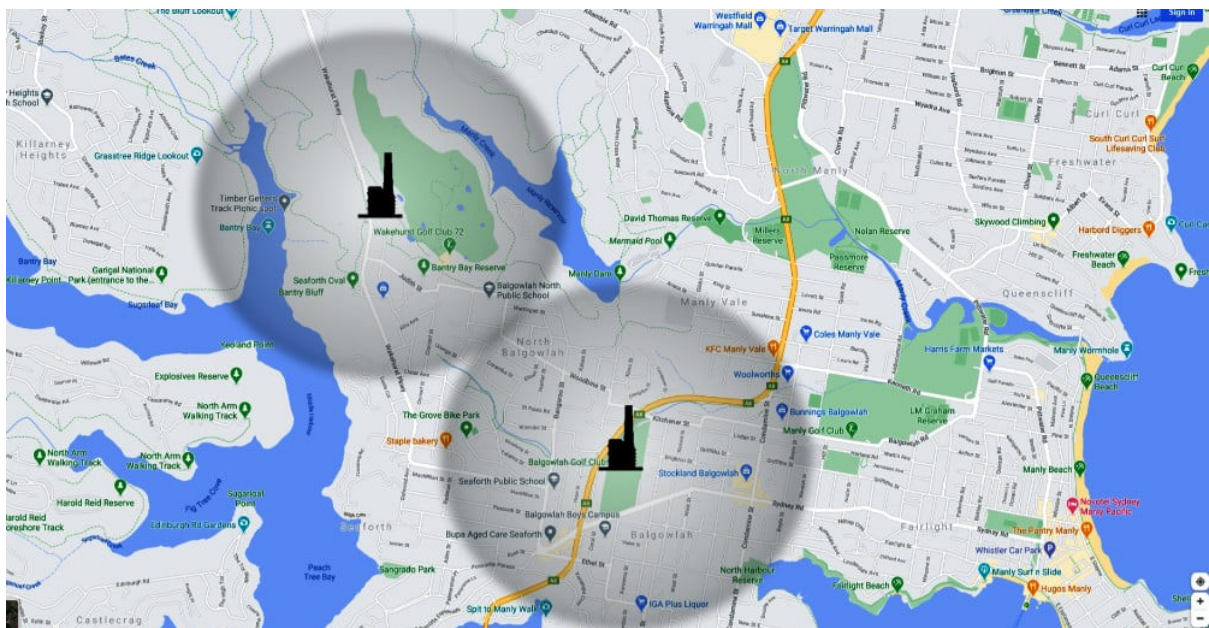
- Over 3,000 vehicles per day across all sites.
- 1,690 vehicles per day at the Balgowlah Golf Course site alone.
- 1.5 heavy vehicles every minute or 4.5 vehicles (total) every minute.
- Over 4,000 homes subjected to excessive noise
- Construction work to proceed 24/7 for up to 7 years.

Request – Please alleviate the concerns of North Balgowlah residents by advising:

- How the impact of trucks/vehicles will not be felt on the suburban streets that are already hard to navigate with local traffic and buses.
- Commit to ensuring that areas around schools and parks are not impacted at all and are safe for families and children to walk or ride around the local community.
- Advise how you will ensure that commuters from outside the local North Balgowlah area will not use our quiet suburban streets as a rat run to save time from congestion and money from using the toll roads.

Ventilation stacks

Global health experts agree that pollution from traffic exhaust poses serious health risks. Emissions include nitrous oxides and particulate matter that, when breathed into the lungs, causes respiratory diseases such as asthma and emphysema, and cancer. There are several schools, preschools, childcare centres, and sporting fields within the vicinity of all the proposed ventilation stacks and from a parent's point of view, the increased level of pollution is unacceptable.



Request - If the tunnel were to go ahead that the stacks be equipped with full filtration to minimize these impacts. At the very least the air pollution is kept at the current levels. In a world that is facing an environmental crisis, how could anyone live with themselves by approving a project which further degrades our air quality?

Environmental Impact

We are fortunate to live in an area that incorporates some spectacular bush land, reserves, and beaches and would urge that further consideration is given to the major environmental impacts, including but not limited to:

1. **Burnt Bridge Creek** - Destruction

The EIS states:

- The EIS says of Burnt Bridge Creek: 'The freshwater creek runs for about four kilometres **and is a vital ecological corridor of regenerated habitat that provides a range of important habitats for a diversity of local flora and fauna**' EIS, Appendix O, page 45
- 'Substantial base flow impacts at Burnt Bridge Creek are also expected during the operational phase **with up to a 96 per cent reduction being modelled**'. EIS, Appendix O, page xi.
- 'This could **impact ecosystems reliant on the water within these creeks**' EIS Appendix N

Specific, first-hand concerns which have been raised by myself and my neighbours are as follows:

- Walking dogs, jogging, family bike riding from North Balgowlah to Manly, kids bike-riding, enjoyment of the trees and animals
- There is so much bird life there, at least 4 types of parrots, this year there was two kookaburra families having babies, eels in the water

2. **Manly Dam reserve**

- Pollution resulting in the potential extinction of rare flora and fauna and the last remaining areas of Duffy's Forest, and meaning that one of the only swimmable dams in NSW is no longer safe for public use.
- Loss of recreational activities with the mountain bike trails that are used for riding, walking, and running.

3. **Clontarf and Middle Harbour (The Spit)** Movement of contaminated sediment potentially causing pollution of the neighbouring beaches.

4. **Queenscliff Lagoon & Beach** Discharge of 428,000 L per day of wastewater into Queenscliff Lagoon & Beach, resulting in health hazards for people and animals who swim in the waterways.

Request I want to know that my children, our future generations get to experience the natural wonders of the area in all its glory. That wildlife can live in the shadows of residential houses, not shadows of concrete, construction and pollution. **What is the point**

of making the northern beaches more accessible if the very heart of what makes the northern beaches so special is destroyed?

If there is anything that we can learn from the challenges of 2019 and reflect on what COVID can teach us - is that **we need to look after what we have got, each other and the environment so we can all live together sustainably, leaving the world in a better place for future generations.** The tunnel cannot be the answer.

Regards

Nicole Mackenzie

North Balgowlah Resident