

Director, Transport Assessments Planning & Assessment
Department of Planning Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Director,

Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection - SSI_8862

I write in relation to the above planned infrastructure project and wish to submit an **objection** to the project, based on the points below.

Air Quality

I have lived in Balgowlah for 14 years. It is where I met my husband and where we are now bringing up two children. One of the things we love about our home is, the natural surrounds and the clean, fresh air.

Sadly, the above project will significantly negatively impact the Burnt Bridge Creek environment where we spend much of our time bringing up our young family. Our home is within a 1.2km radius of the unfiltered smoke stack proposed close to Balgowlah Boys School. This means that my children, along with thousands of others, will live their lives breathing in exhaust fumes and other pollutants which may lead to increased risks of cancer and other major respiratory illnesses.

According to health experts, there is no safe level of exposure to unfiltered exhaust fumes, *"small particulate pollution has health impacts even at very low concentrations – indeed no threshold has been identified below which no damage to health is observed"*.¹

See also, [Health Effects of Traffic-Related Air Pollution](#) authored by NSW Health.

I object to the unfiltered smoke stack. I urge the Department to investigate this more thoroughly, look at alternative options and consider the health and wellbeing of our children.

You may be interested to know, recently air pollution was deemed to be the cause of a nine year old's death in the UK (<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/air-pollution-deemed->

¹ [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-\(outdoor\)-air-quality-and-health#:~:text=%22WHO%20air%20quality%20guidelines%22%20estimate,related%20deaths%20by%20around%2015%25.](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health#:~:text=%22WHO%20air%20quality%20guidelines%22%20estimate,related%20deaths%20by%20around%2015%25.)

[cause-of-girl-death-unprecedented-2020-12?r=US&IR=T](#)). It will be devastating to have similar occurrences here.

Additionally, I am concerned the size of the air stack in Balgowlah is misrepresented by the artists impression in the EIS. The stack appears to be a small when it is much taller. I request the **EIS be amended/reissued** with the correct size of the stack shown.

Environmental damage

Our home backs on to an area called “The Witches Glen”, a waterfall and rock-pool hidden behind homes on Kitchener Street, as part of the Burnt Bridge Creek. The waterfall was once a popular swimming and rafting spot, today it is teeming with local wildlife. It is home to water dragons, Kookaburra’s, Echidna, owls and much more, including numerous threatened species. It is also a water source to the nearby flying fox colony.

During construction, groundwater flows into the Burnt Bridge Creek will be reduced by around 79% while the tunnels are being built and up to 96% after completion of the project. This means that the **creek will become a storm water drain – reliant only on rainwater**. This will have an impact on the vegetation along the creek and all the animals who rely on this water source.

In addition, the quality of water that flows into Manly Lagoon and into the ocean at Queenscliff Beach will fall – and during times of reduced rainfall the water will be polluted.

I object to the destruction of Burnt Bridge Creek, and urge the Department to:

- Consider ecologically sustainable alternatives to the car tunnel. Fully scope alternative public transport options.
- Carry out full assessment of biodiversity in and around area to be destroyed. Carry out fish and macroinvertebrate sampling in creeks and waterways.

Traffic flow

Traffic modelling in the EIS is modelled on data gathered in 2016. **Four years ago, the world was a very different place**. Much has changed since then, including the introduction of a B-Line bus service and a global pandemic resulting in many people working/studying from home. As such, I request:

- A full reassessment of the traffic flows to and from the Northern Beaches needs to include data collected after 2016, considering how many people commute vs. how many work from home.

Furthermore, a large number of additional construction vehicle movements will be required across the project servicing multiple construction sites. These sites are in and around residential homes, schools, and sporting fields which increases the risks to safety. The increased traffic on Kitchener Street alone will make exiting our house more challenging and unsafe for our children. I request:

- The community to view the business case for the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway connection. This will tell us whether the Beaches Link is the most efficient, cost effective infrastructure to reduce congestion to and from the Northern Beaches.
- A comparative public transport options analysis. Given the negative impact on the environment and the overall desire of the community to move to more sustainable solutions, offering more public transport solutions should seriously be considered rather than simply a transit solution for cars.

Should you wish to discuss any of the points raised above, please contact me on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Balgowlah

[REDACTED]