

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 following reasons:

**Vehicle Emissions Impact to Climate Change**

Australia ratified the Paris climate accord in December 2015 where it committed with 196 other countries to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and limit global temperature increase to 2 degrees while pursuing measures to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees.

According to the EIS the project is expected to generate 139,363 (t CO<sub>2</sub>-e) of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction and operation up to 2037 which equates to more than 1% of the entire NSW emission inventory. (see table 3-19 Appendix X)

The assumptions with respect to expected reduction in congestion, fewer stop /starts and an increased average speed are based on outdated data traffic data from 2016 which does not consider the significant changes to driver behaviour as a result of COVID-19 and the success of the B-Line.

It is not possible to assess the net impact of GHG emissions with a high level of confidence given these changes.

If it is the case that the Climate Change and GHG calculations overstate the benefits of this project then this would be inconsistent with Australia's commitment to the Paris agreement and could result in enforceable action taken within the courts as per the recent precedent set in the UK<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/feb/27/heathrow-third-runway-ruled-illegal-over-climate-change>

## Loss of Biodiversity

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 states: *“protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”*<sup>2</sup>

The reduction of the flow of the creek by 79% is totally unacceptable and will result in a significant level of permanent biodiversity loss in the Burnt Bridge Creek area.

This is not consistent with Australia’s commitment to this goal.

## Air Quality

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 states: *“substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”*.<sup>3</sup>

The unfiltered smokestack will introduce hazardous chemicals into the air and will be inhaled by us and our children.

I ask that Australia’s obligations to the international community are taken seriously and we are able to demonstrate that these ideals are important enough for real sacrifices to be made.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Balgowlah 2093

[Redacted Address]

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>

<sup>3</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>