

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

27/2/21

**Objection: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Upgrade –
SSI_8862**

I'm writing to express my objection to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project. The project will damage or destroy many natural environments enjoyed by residents on Sydney's lower north shore, and poses significant health and safety risks. Alternative public transport options don't appear to have been adequately considered and compared.

I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. I object to the negative impact the project will have on our green spaces and waterways. In total, thousands of trees will be cleared, reducing already pressured urban habitats.
2. I object to the destruction of my own local park, Artarmon Park, in the construction process – and I see no mention in the EIS of subsequent restoration plans. This park is a green corridor for a wide range of wildlife, connecting through to Artarmon Reserve, then Flat Rock Gully and beyond. The extensive removal of native trees (including some extremely old blue gums) will destroy this corridor.
3. I object to the reduction of real estate values, as a result of the damage to Artarmon Park. This stretch of bushland provides a 'green screen' from the Gore Hill Freeway – removing it will cause visual, noise and air pollution for nearby residents. As a result, the value of nearby real estate will be negatively impacted and this has not been addressed in the EIS.
4. I object to the project due to the risk of groundworks in sensitive residential areas, as well as foreshore environments. The risk of releasing toxic contaminants in sensitive areas such as Flat Rock Gully (which was previously a dump for many decades) and Middle Harbour, are unacceptably high and have the potential to cause health impacts for residents into the future.
5. I object to the project as it has a poor climate profile at a time when we should be looking to projects which reduce our emissions. I'm amazed that an alternative public transport feasibility study hasn't been conducted by way of comparison (for example, why wasn't there consideration of extending the new Metro train system to the Northern Beaches?).

The EIS demonstrates that this toll road will be extremely expensive to build. I would ask that an alternative public transport feasibility study be published before any further planning occurs, so that the impacts and outcomes can be fairly compared.

Yours sincerely,

