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Greens NSW MP

Parliament House
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Department of Planning
by email: majorprojectssupport@planning.nsw.gov.au

1 March 2021
URGENT

Re: Beaches Link Tunnel

Please consider this a submission for State Significant Infrastructure project Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection. I strongly object to the proposal.

I have had significant correspondence from the local community concerned about the impact of the tunnel on the Aboriginal heritage of the area, and the direct impacts on Manly Dam.

The unique Aboriginal carvings along Engravings Trail will be under threat from road runoff, construction debris and possible blasting impacts. The landscape in which they are in will also be significantly degraded.

The tunnel will run through a ridge between the sensitive Manly Dam Reserve and Garigal National Park and include the destruction of the visual and auditory amenity of the dam, as well as having likely impacts on the water quality and the surrounding bushland. The fact the road will be visible from many parts of the reserve is likely to create ongoing resentment against the decision makers involved.

The proposed 4-6 lanes for the Wakehurst Parkway will inevitably destroy bush at the top of Manly Dam and Garigal National Park. The ridge is simply too narrow for such a wide road.

I have stood with the local community at Manly Dam against the encroachment by the Department of Education on the reserve, and these community members are distressed to once again have to agitate to protect this precious place.

The community also have significant concerns about the rushed process being proposed here. Once this tunnel is built it will be a feature of this landscape for the foreseeable future and the opportunities to mitigate its impact and protect the local area will be lost.

Action required:

We urge you to reject the current proposal until a more suitable plan can be developed.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 9230 3030 or by return email to david.shoebridge@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Greens MP David Shoebridge