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Date 8/03/21

Objection: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Upgrade – SSI_8862

I write to express my objection to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project. I have done my best to read the extensive EIS documents at this very difficult time. I have significant concerns about the justification for this project particularly given that there is no published business case, it is not high on Infrastructure Australia's priority list, the EIS demonstrates a significant risk to health and safety. Furthermore, both the project and an alternative public transport option has not been fully scoped and compared. Indeed, public transport as an option does not appear to have been considered at all. This flies in the face of the critical and urgent need for genuine efforts and solutions to reduce emissions and address climate change.

I ask that the EIS be reissued with

1. A full Phase 2 Contamination Assessment completed
2. A comparative mass transit alternative assessment
3. A business case which justifies travel times claimed, re-assesses surface traffic impact and includes fully scoped cost.

However, I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. The timing of release of this project at the end of an extremely difficult year. This project impacts a large number of schools and passes through highly residential areas. Families, community groups and schools have been under a huge amount of strain throughout the exhibition stage. School P&C's did not have the opportunity to review the documents. Parents, like myself, were caring for children during school holidays. The 12,000+ paged documents are very difficult to read on screen and the Library was not allowing borrowing. It also has a very low readability score and therefore not accessible for vast majority of the population. This information needs to be accessible. Furthermore the project should be re-exhibited well after the COVID-19 crisis has passed, when normal life resumes, and to allow the community an opportunity to understand the project's long-term impacts and actively engage with the issue. Subsequently, there needs to be an extension for submissions to ensure the community has had adequate time to fully understand this massive, long-term project with such vast, ongoing impacts affecting many residents, including a high number of home owners, families with young children and elderly people. To do otherwise shows a lack of public consultation and transparency.

2. I object to the project due to the contamination risks it presents to the environment and to human health and the negative impact on our critically important waterways and green spaces.
- I object to the project due to my serious concerns about the long-term environmental damage from widening the Wakehurst Parkway and potential risks to groundwater and flow on effects down to Manly Dam.
 - The beautiful Burnt Bridge Creek was supported for many years by an environment levy local ratepayers, like my family paid to the then Manly Council. Manly council referred to it as the 'The Life Spring of Manly'. This was money very well spent. I am extremely concerned about the de-watering of the creek and the construction will take the ground water out of our entire suburb forever. This will have serious negative consequences for our street trees and gardens and local bush reserves. With increasing temperatures, more frequent droughts and bushfires this only adds to the many negative impacts of climate change on our local environment and the health and wellbeing of the residents, flora and fauna alike. No water flowing downstream will also devastate Manly Lagoon. And our beautiful creek becomes basically a stormwater drain, according to the EIS with 79% baseflow reduction after construction increasing to 96% over 100 years. This is absolutely unacceptable. Our waterways are meant to be nourishing and support biodiversity.

I object to the project as my son's Indigenous father and his family lives very near Flat Rock Gully. Thus, this is an important area to visit when we are visiting and spending time with family. We also use Middle Harbour, Spit Road Reserve, Wakehurst Parkway and Clontarf very regularly and these are all critical areas for our leisure activities. I object to the project as I am concerned that the risk assessment is incomplete and as the EIS states, more testing is required to assess risk and establish mitigation options. I also object to contaminated sediment being barged past beaches such as Clontarf and Middle Harbour and am extremely concerned about the risk of spills and accidents. This is where my young children, myself and our family and friends enjoy spending time together and these are all important areas of habitat for flora, fauna, aquatic and marine life. I object to the project as there is no remediation plan in place if there is a spill or accident.

3. I object to the project due to the unreasonable level of impact on the Quality of Life of residents during the tunnel construction and operation because our family home is just off the Wakehurst Parkway in Seaforth. It is where I live with my young children, including a baby and my elderly parents. On street parking is already stretched and I am extremely concerned about the impact of a huge influx of workers on parking and liveability of the area. I have two young children and elderly parents and need to be able to park on the street. I am also extremely concerned about increased noise, dust and contaminants.
4. I object to the project due to health impacts. I live right near the planned unfiltered stacks, putting my young family and elderly parent's health at serious risk. The EIS own modelling acknowledges increased mortality rates and hospitalisations due respiratory issues around locations like Balgowlah North School and Seaforth Public School, while these rates are reduced in other suburbs like Neutral Bay. This is robbing Peter to pay

Paul, so to speak, and is utterly unacceptable. We need to be looking at solutions that reduce pollution and therefore improve health across the board. This requires investment in public transport, not building roads. While progressive cities like Vancouver, Paris and London are looking towards creating sustainable cities with visionary public transport, we are hurtling ahead, racing to build the next Los Angeles. This will destroy everything beautiful and precious about this area. The beautiful spaces, fresh air, walking and cycling tracks make this such a liveable area, crucially supporting and promoting healthy, active lifestyles. This needs to be preserved and enhanced by nurturing and preserving the natural environment and focusing on clean public transport infrastructure, not roads.

5. I object to the project due to the threat to our biodiversity and green spaces. For example, I object due to the irreparable damage threatening the bush corridor of Burnt Bridge Creek, Wakehurst Parkway and Manly Dam and surrounds. My children and family use these spaces daily and these are our favourite places to walk. It would be devastating to our way of life to have these areas negatively affected. This is near my home and is a huge part of the attraction of living in the area. There is both threatened and endangered species habitat around Manly Dam and this must be preserved. We have already lost crucial habitat with the construction of the Northern Beaches Hospital and we must urgently preserve what is lost. Governments may come and go, but these areas are utterly irreplaceable.

I object to the project due to the construction impacts, particularly around Burnt Bridge Creek, including removal of large mature trees and habitat, removal of nearby water retention dam (important source for endangered species) and "Discharge of almost half a million litres a day of wastewater that will run into Queenscliff Lagoon".

6. I object to the project as it is a tolled road and there is little evidence that it will alleviate current congestion. I live in Seaforth and am concerned that the EIS states that traffic will increase on feeder roads. Furthermore, a huge factor is the bottleneck at Mosman, a major issue that needs to be addressed. However, this proposed tunnel has very little significant impact on this, with only a 10% reduction in traffic estimated to be achieved. This alone is a massive reason this project is a ridiculous waste of money with the risks and damage far outweighing any transport benefits. Building roads does not reduce traffic. The only way to reduce traffic is with a viable public transport system. According to an engineer at a Northbridge community Information session, the tunnel will be too steep for buses. However, a bus is pictured in promotional material for the tunnel. This is highly misleading and fails to accurately inform the community.

The expensive tolls will increase the use of rat runs and increase congestion in local streets. This will be dangerous for the children and young families and elderly that live here and increase pollution. Overall, \$15 000000000 is unjustifiably expensive and will

not achieve the goal of reducing traffic.

7. I object to the project because the B-Line buses have been successful in reducing congestion and no public transport alternative study has been done with which to compare this project

This project is a missed opportunity to transform Sydney into a world class, healthy and sustainable city with a strong public transport system. The EIS demonstrates that this toll road will be extremely expensive to build and high risk with little benefit. I would ask that an alternative public transport feasibility study be published before any further planning occurs so that impacts and outcomes can be fairly compared.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Name: [Redacted]

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