

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

Note: Please delete my personal details before publication

17th February 2021

Objection: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Upgrade - SSI_8862

I am writing to express my objection to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project. I have read the extensive EIS documents. I have significant concerns about this project and the impact it will have upon the health and wellbeing of my community, which the EIS has demonstrated. I struggle to see the justification for this project particularly given that there is no published business case, it is not high on Infrastructure Australia's priority list, it is inconsistent with the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the project has not been fully scoped and compared with an alternative mass transport public transport option, most notably heavy rail.

I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. The timing of release of this project has made it untenable for the the community to fully considerate it. 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 due to the current pandemic. School P&C's did not have the opportunity to review the documents and parents were caring for children on school holidays. The proposed project should be re-exhibited to the community well after the COVID-19 crisis has passed and when we are in a position to understand the permanent changes that have resulted.
2. I object to the project due to the contamination risks it presents to the environment and to human health, as well as the negative impact on our waterways and green spaces. I object to the interference with the high level contaminants which are known to exist in Flat Rock Gully, Middle Harbour, Cammeray Golf Course, Spit Reserve, and Wakehurst Parkway because I have serious concerns about the impact that it will have upon the health of my family and community. Our house is less than one kilometre from the known contaminants in Flat Rock Gully and I have serious concerns about the air quality during the five year construction period as well as after its completion. I object to the release of toxins in the air that my family breathes, caused by the proposed construction. I request that if this construction sadly proceeds, that the Flat Rock Gully dive site be relocated to the Artarmon Industrial Park area which will materially mitigate these risks to the surrounding environment and health of community members.
3. I object to the proposed project due to the scale, extent and risk of groundworks in sensitive residential areas and foreshore environments. I object to the piling and drilling in Middle Harbour that the project will require and to the dumping of spoil in our ocean.
4. 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. For example, my children will not be able to participate in sailing activities through Northbridge Sailing Club for at least the

five year construction period. My family will also not be able to use the Northbridge Baths. I will not be able to kayak in Middle Harbour for the foreseeable future. I will not be able to take my children on bush walks in Flat Rock Gully, which they enjoy and benefit from significantly. The construction of the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project prohibits almost every way in which the members of my family exercise and maintain physical and mental wellbeing, and for this reason I object to its construction. I object to the compromised health of my family that will accompany the construction, resulting from such factors as high levels of dust, noise, and vehicle pollution. I am very concerned about the unfiltered pollution stacks proposed for this project.

5. I object to the project due to the threat to our biodiversity and green spaces. For example, I often take my children for bush walks through Flat Rock Gully and bike rides in the surrounds. Flat Rock Gully is a green corridor that is so important given Northbridge's proximity to high density constructions. Should the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project proceed, my family will lose access to the regular ways in which we exercise and enjoy nature, thus diminishing our quality of life significantly. I object to the loss of so many trees that the project necessitates at a time when climate scientists are understanding even more about the imperative to increase, not decrease, the amount of trees on our planet. I object to the threat to animal and plant species living in the area, many of whom are already threatened.
6. I object to the project as it is a tolled road and there is little evidence that it will alleviate current congestion. I am concerned that the proposed Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway will exacerbate toll avoidance, thus continuing congestion on current routes. I am also concerned at the lack of evidence that the proposed project will in fact reduce congestion. During the five year construction period, I object to the considerable traffic issues that will be caused in my area. Specifically, there will be new traffic lights to enter Flat Rock Gully, which will create further delays. The constant flow of vehicles to the proposed dive site at Flat Rock Gully will create 'ratruns' in the area and significantly congest Eastern Valley Way, Sailors Bay Road, and Strathallen Avenue, which I object to.
7. 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. The Paris Climate Agreement (to which Australia is a signatory) specifies carbon neutrality by 2050, which requires substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the current critical decade. I object to the compromise on our climate that the construction of the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway will have due to very high water usage, very high concrete production volume, and very high waste generation.
8. I object to the project as there has been no publicly published business case and the costs demonstrated in the EIS seem to far outweigh the benefits. The EIS also fails to fully scope many aspects such as utilities and contamination which poses a risk to the project. I object to the under-considered nature of this project and its lack of consideration of pros and cons. The business case is not transparent for this proposed project, and thus cannot be held up to public scrutiny.
9. I object to the project because no public transport alternative study has been done with which to compare this project. A full options analysis is required to truly compare the proposed project with public transport alternatives, given the huge expenditure being undertaken with taxpayer funds.

This proposed project is depressing in its lost opportunity to create a sustainable city with impressive public transport options and construction that has considered the health and wellbeing of current and future generations. 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. As the proposed project stands, it has not encompassed all the necessary considerations and falls far short of the requirement we all currently have to plan a future that accounts for minimising the extent to which our climate changes.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Declaration of any reportable political donations: I have not made any reportable political donations in the past two years