

Northbridge.  
(Sydney) NSW 2063.  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Dear Beaches Link Tunnel Planning and Assessment Department,

Subject: **Beaches Link Tunnel.**

I object to various aspects of the above proposed infrastructure.

My primary concerns relate to the proposed dig site on the eastern side of Flat Rock Drive, Northbridge. Some of many, are elucidated here.

### **Bushland and Habitat:**

- I object to the desecration in general of the bushland in Flat Rock Gully, located on the southern border of Northbridge. I am a resident of Northbridge.
- Bushland in any city is to be treasured. It acts as “green lungs” and is vital for Carbon Dioxide/Oxygen exchange and lowering of temperature in a world where temperature is steadily rising. The phenomenon of increasing temperatures is known as Climate Change. I object to the loss of this “green space” and object to the associated undesirable results which follow. Such space is already in short supply in Sydney.
- I also object to the loss of walking and running paths in a presently tranquil environment, which is enjoyed not only by local residents but by people from various parts of Sydney. I have met people in Flat Rock Gully from Rushcutters Bay and Croydon, both suburbs some distance away, on the southern side of Sydney Harbour.
- Such an arboreal setting, so close to Sydney’s CBD is important for mental health as well as physical health, and for these reasons also, I object to the destruction of the bush.

### **Contamination:**

- I object to the fact that the proposed dig site is in an old rubbish tip or dump, which previously has received hospital waste as well as various forms of household and building materials including “fibro”, a building material containing asbestos, used for walls and cladding, Asbestos is the cause of the debilitating and deadly lung disease mesothelioma.
- In the recent past, a legal case in Australia, brought by Mr Bernie Banton representing sufferers of asbestos related conditions, was successful against the company trading as James Hardie, the makers of “fibro”, the asbestos sheeting.
- No Risk Assessment has been undertaken to determine exactly which contaminants lie beneath the present **stable** bushland, or the concentration of such contaminants.
- I object to the fact that such an important component of this project has not been undertaken.
- I also object to the contamination of Flat Rock Creek and downstream water ways, by the proposed daily release from the dig site, of contaminated water in huge volumes.

- I object to the fact that not only will the water be contaminated, but to the sheer volume, which in itself, is staggering. This release will pollute the catchment area and all waterways to Long Bay and Middle Harbour. The 711kilolitres of contaminated water **per day** being released into Flat Rock Creek represents approximately the volume of two (2) North Sydney Olympic Swimming Pools being flushed into Sydney Harbour every seven days.
- I object to the proposed diversion of Flat Rock Creek in two places

### **Alternative Dig Site:**

- I object to the stated reason given in the EIS for not considering the Diamond Baseball Courts area in the Bicentennial Reserve, as a suitable dig site.
- Keeping the courts and then exposing countless children over many years to air borne pollutants for inhalation at a time when lungs are greatly expanded, is beyond comprehension. I object to the decision to compromise the health of children participating in sport, the spectators of the sport and the nearby local residents.
- I emphatically and respectfully request that the decision not to use the Diamond Baseball Courts site, is re-examined and reanalysed, resulting in a sensible conclusion which will not put local residents et *al* at risk of breathing in all types of largely unknown contaminants and pollutants, which will be exposed when the former rubbish tip is breached.
- The proposed commencement date for the dig site is 2023 ....two (2) years away. Two years is more than sufficient time to find an alternative site/s for courts, build them, and have them operational for/before 2023.
- The cost of relocating the courts is insignificant compared with the estimated expenditure for the total project.
- The Sports Lobby will be very disenchanted when they realize that their children, and they as spectators, will be subject to breathing in whatever pollutants and contaminants are in the air above the courts on any particular day.
- Willoughby Council derives a constant stream of income from hiring out these courts. Have they been instrumental in sacrificing the bush for dollars?

### **Health:**

- **Noise:** Noise emanating from the dig site during the initial excavation and acoustic shed construction (estimated to last six months) will be intolerable. I object to minimal measures proposed to attenuate this.
- I request that **double glazing is installed in relevant areas of properties of affected residences** in close proximity to the dig site, in Pyalla and Calbina Streets Northbridge, as well as affected houses in Pendy and Small Streets, Marlborough Road, all in South Willoughby and parts of Cammeray and Naremburn.
- **Air Quality:** No Risk Assessment regarding air quality in Northbridge has been proposed or done in a “before and after construction” scenario. The expulsion and propulsion of diesel fumes into the air for 11 hours per day five days a week, and for

six hours on the sixth day, from the 900+ truck movements daily, is not acceptable. I object to this pollution.

- I object to this neglect when air quality is vital for life. There will be dust and diesel particles in the atmosphere; additionally also, many so far unidentified contaminants.
- **Pollution.** (i) I object to the pollution (diesel fumes etc. as stated above) resulting from transportation of excavated spoilage along Flat Rock Drive. Affected will be local residents, children playing in the adjacent Baseball Diamond Courts in the Bicentennial Reserve, their spectators, plus recreational users of whatever does remain of Flat Rock Gully, as well as Tunnel workers.
- (ii) I object to the gaseous emissions resulting from putrescence of a previous rubbish tip, released during the set-up of the dig site in Flat Rock Gully. This will affect all people as in (i) above for a lengthy amount of time...six months???
- (iii) I object to the unfiltered air emanating from the tunnel stacks. What goes up must come down (eventually, somewhere, where???). This will affect local residents as well as all of Sydney, especially when the Sydney Basin suffers one of, or consecutive inversion weather days.
- I also object to the proposed pushing of external air into the tunnels, to be pushed out via unfiltered stacks, as I am not convinced this is best practice.
- **Substratum acquisition:** The notation on the Title Deed for properties which will be affected by any of the proposed tunnels or exit ramps located underneath the property, will be anxiety inducing. I object to this; resulting stress could well affect a person's health and financial future.

### **Biodiversity:**

- I very strongly object to the removal and loss of more than 390 mature trees.
- I object to the loss of habitat for all types of animals and wildlife especially that of the Powerful Owl, the numbers of which are precariously low. Calls from these owls have been heard by local residents in February 2021, despite the EIS stating that no "owl friendly" trees have been identified.
- I object to the destruction and loss of Flat Rock Gully Bushland in general, and flora and fauna in particular. A **full** study of the biodiversity contained therein has not been done. If not rectified, this will result in plants and animals being lost permanently from the area. I object to the fact that a suitable study has not been done. I also object to the probable loss of biodiversity.
- I object to the proposed dislocation of the wildlife corridor, which will likely result in the permanent loss of current resident wildlife.

### **Ground Impact:**

- I object to the noise generated by 900+ vehicle movements a day, five and a half days a week for five (5) years when moving excavated debris from Flat Rock Gully, as vehicles grind up the steep southern slope of Flat Rock Drive to Brook Street, belching diesel fumes on the way.

- I am concerned by, and object to tunnelling vibration as well as transference of excavation noise from tunnelling, being felt by me in my home.
- I object to the possibility of damage, either structural or cosmetic, being done to my property. The Luna Park Fault line at Northbridge could exacerbate this.
- I object to the enormous volume of water which will be lost to the environment through the proposed Drawdown during excavation.
- I also object to the ongoing/“flow on” effect the above drawdown will have on the animals and plants which presently live in Flat Rock Gully (e.g. the Turpentine trees which require constant surface water will probably die).

#### **Traffic:**

- I object to the total traffic chaos Northbridge residents will experience when attempting to travel anywhere to the south via Flat Rock Drive.
- I object to the significant inconvenience Northbridge residents will have trying to access the proposed tunnels for motoring, when completed.
- I object to the difficulty Northbridge residents will have after tunnel completion, in travelling “cross country”.

#### **Transport:**

- I object to the fact that the Beaches Link Tunnel will not carry Public Transport.
- The object of a rapid transit system should be to move people quickly, not to encourage more cars to have a shorter travel time five (5) years hence.
- The B Line bus service, a public bus route to the Northern Beaches, which commenced 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017, has proved very successful in reducing the number of commuters using motor vehicles. This concept should be expanded and incorporated into Beaches Link Tunnel Traffic.

#### **Alternatives:**

- No assessments have been done to explore alternative way/s of moving large numbers of people from the Northern Beaches to other parts of Sydney.
- I attended a presentation at Balgowlah Golf Club when the chief engineer for the Sydney Harbour Tunnel project presented viable people moving alternatives.

#### **Site Rehabilitation:**

- I object to the fact that no definite commitment has been given to revegetate the dig site area in Flat Rock Gully.
- I object to the fact that designated use of this area after Tunnel Life, will be open to discussion with Willoughby Council who will lobby hard for further sporting facilities which the Council can rent or lease for income. This, in my opinion, will be putting dollars before green open space and the well-being of rate payers.

- This area should be remediated and returned to bushland which ultimately is of more benefit to the community than a multi storey converted acoustic shed or bitumen covered courts or treeless playing fields.

Please leave the bush and the contaminated soil alone. There is a viable alternative.

Both the bush and the nasties are stable and currently present no problems to anyone. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is a very good axiom to bear in mind. Leave well alone.

Thankyou.

Yours sincerely,

