

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the impact of the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel project on the sport of sailing in Upper Middle Harbour, and in support of my Club of the last 46 years, Northbridge Sailing Club.

I have been a member of Northbridge Sailing Club since joining as a 10 year old in 1975 and have been a Member of Seaforth Moth Sailing Club since 1980. I have sailed Moths for over 40 years and have competed at National titles in all States, and world titles both in Australia and overseas.

Northbridge (where I learned to sail), sailed on Sundays, and Seaforth sailed on Saturdays. Having learnt to sail at Northbridge as a child I went on in the mid 1980's to qualify as an AYF Sailing Master and ran the sailing school on a volunteer basis and taught (with others) many hundreds of children (and adults) to sail. This tradition has been ongoing at Northbridge from around 1970 to date. These pupils have all learnt to sail on the waters of Upper Middle Harbour.

As well as sail training racing is another key component of the club. Racing in the challenging waters of Upper Middle Harbour has produced many State, National and World Champion sailors. These sailors skills have been honed on the racing courses that the Clubs have set over the last 70 years.

In January 2000 the two clubs merged and Northbridge is now responsible to the running and management of both sites (the Northbridge site, and the Seaforth Clubhouse annex).

The International Moth Class is a high-performance boat that is sailed around Australia and internationally. The Moth class has considerable historical roots in the Seaforth Moth Sailing Club, being one of the birthplaces of the class, with considerable development occurring in the waters of Upper Middle Harbour. Pocket luff rigs used by all sailboards and many sailing boats (including the popular Laser class) were developed by the Moth Class at Seaforth in the mid to late 1960's along with many other innovations.

The class has been continuously sailed at Seaforth Moth Sailing Club from 1951 (since incorporated into Northbridge Sailing Club in January 2000) and has continued to be sailed from there ever since.

I am concerned that the impact from the construction work required to complete this project, specifically the maritime arrangements related to the undersea tunnel under Upper Middle Harbour on our club may be the death knell of recreational dinghy (and yacht) sailing on Upper Middle Harbour.

Our courses as set by Northbridge Sailing Club, are all affected by the maritime restrictions of the proposed Beaches Link project. Whilst we have managed to weather the proposed second bridge crossing (Seaforth to Castlecrag) in the 1970's and further testing in the early 1990s, the Long Bay Sewage outfall construction in the late 1990's early 2000, and other disruptions to our course area by submarine sea bed testing over recent years, the current proposals under the EIS will (in my view) have a drastic impact on the course area covered under the Club's Aquatic Licence. The proposals will, effectively cleave in half the entire navigable area of Upper Middle Harbour which we have utilised for 70 years.

I therefore urge the NSW government to assist Northbridge Sailing Club (incorporating Seaforth Moth Sailing Club) in any way they can to minimise the effect on the club, (both club sites) and compensate for the remaining effects in order to maintain the long-term health of our sport.

Signed,

(Name and signature withheld)
(address withheld(Seaforth NSW 2092
Life Member International Moth Class Association (Aust)

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