

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

24 February
2021

Objection: Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade - SSI-8863

I write to express my objection to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade. I have done my best to read the extensive EIS documents at this exceedingly 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 and that the EIS demonstrates a significant risk to health and safety while delivering poor outcomes.

Firstly, I object to this project continuing to be placed on exhibition during the COVID-19 Crisis. This project impacts the largest precinct of schools in Australia and passes through highly residential areas. Families, community groups and schools have been under a huge amount of strain throughout the exhibition stage. Meetings have had to be cancelled and we have been social distancing as instructed. Trying to read these documents has created more anxiety. The project should be re-exhibited well after the COVID-19 crisis has passed and when normal life returns.

Secondly, I object to the project due to the poor climate and sustainability outcomes and the negative impact on our precious waterways and green spaces.

Thirdly, I object to the project business case.

From what I understand the cost to develop the tunnel far exceed what any operator would pay for it once it is developed. It is simply unviable and waste of money, considering the little reduction in traffic congestion.

Fourthly, I object to the project due to smokestacks location and design.

The smokestack will be located in the Balgowlah valley, the emissions will be unfiltered, and I understand it will be eight stories high. Unfiltered emissions in 2021 is unacceptable by health and environmental standards. I would further expect disbursement of the emissions in a valley, even close to the coast is to be far less effective than on top of a hill. Furthermore, an eight-story high structure will dominate the entire valley and negatively impact house prices.

I further object to the project due to the poor Traffic and Congestion outcomes.

Rat runs will develop throughout North Balgowlah and Balgowlah. These will disrupt neighbourhood streets for years to come and large parts of childhoods would be spent near a construction site.

In addition, I object to the project due to lack of EIS to address impact of the tunnel on house prices in the area.

Houses in the near vicinity is purchased at a premium. Prolonged construction will have a negative impact on the property market.

Lastly, the construction and operational risks are far too high for residents and school children along the route.

Our children attend school near the construction site and walk to school daily. Large trucks will lead to accidents in narrow neighbourhood streets designed for cars.

I also ask that you change the classification of St Cecelia School in Wanganella street to a Primary School and not a “place of worship”.

This project is a missed opportunity to transform Sydney into a world class, healthy and sustainable city with a strong public transport system. 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,

Mick & Samantha Kirchner

71 Serrentine Crescent, North Balgowlah, NSW, 2093

Declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous 2 years e.g. I have not made any reportable political donations in the past two years.	
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