



NSW & ACT Laser Association

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To whom it may concern,

Assistance to Minimise the Impact of Northern Beaches Link Tunnel on Northbridge Sailing Club

I am writing in support of Northbridge Sailing Club's effort to minimise the impact of the construction of Northern Beaches tunnel crossing of Middle Harbour.

The NSW Laser Association is the organising authority for the International Laser Class Association dinghy in NSW, a sailing dinghy that is sailed around Australia, internationally and at the Olympic Games. It is one of the largest classes of dinghy in the world with nearly 220,000 boats having been built in the past 50 years since its conception. Its success is in its democracy – all boats are absolutely identical, they are robust and competitive for years and very affordable. The events that we organise cater for sailors ranging in age from under 16 to over 75. Our NSW fleet is large and very competitive. Our NSW representatives have won many World Titles and Gold medals at the last 2 Olympic Games.

The Laser dinghy has been sailed at Northbridge Sailing Club for over 25 years. They have a strong and competitive Masters Fleet (over 35 years of age) who are regular participants at State, National and World events. Northbridge sailors have been State and National champions, and placed at world championships.

The Association is concerned about the long-term impact on our class at Northbridge from the construction work required to complete this project, specifically the maritime arrangements related to the undersea tunnel under Upper Middle Harbour.

These have the potential to reduce the ongoing attractiveness and viability of the fleet at Northbridge Sailing Club to competitive sailors, and in turn significantly reduce the number of sailors willing to sail Lasers there. It will also over time affect the Association's numbers at various state-wide and national regattas.

We therefore urge the NSW Government to assist Northbridge Sailing Club in any way they can to minimise the effect on the club, and compensate for the remaining effects in order to maintain the long-term health of our sport.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Phillips
Chair NSW & ACT Laser Association
24 February 2021