

Beaches Link and Gorehill Freeway Link EIS Community Submission

I am a resident of Kirkwood St Seaforth and will be significantly impacted by the construction of the beaches link tunnel. This letter outlines some of my key concerns regarding the EIS and proposed construction.

Construction Impacts

Objection

1. Construction Work Car Park

I object to the proposed construction worker car parking solutions provided. There is limited street parking in Kirkwood St and although the EIS states the car parking for construction workers will be provided on site in Balgowlah, and workers would be encouraged to use public transport or shuttle buses, a suggestion is not going to prevent the appointed contracted workers from parking in our streets 24/7. Once TfNSW hands over to the contractor unless it is explicitly written into the contract and enforced the Contractors employees will not abide by a suggestion or encouragement. Nor should this just be left up to the Council to manage congestion left behind by this Construction.

We are going to be living in an incredibly congested building site for 5 or even 8 years we need to minimise the impact to the local community.

2. Noise and vibration

Operations will be 24/7 and I understand from the consultation that noise levels will only be significant when you are near our properties and that Standard Construction Hours Standard construction hours will be 7am-6pm weekdays and 8am-1pm Saturdays, with night work conducted "when required".

I object to the noise levels and contractor being responsible for managing this, given the increasing number of people working from home, and construction sites proximity to schools, there are many more people near construction sites during the day than would have been in the past.

Request

I request that before any approval for this project there the following put in place:

- Guarantees by TfNSW to ensure workers are not permitted to park in local streets, without being reliant on council to enforce local parking restrictions. Further to that, it is too much to expect residents to monitor worksites – TfNSW must be responsible for monitoring contractor compliance, with appropriate penalties for breaches.
- An independent assessment of noise and vibration impacts from construction on all surrounding homes with noise and vibration above management levels must be done and provided to property owners before construction commences. Where exceedances are found to be likely, appropriate mitigation strategies such as double-glazing or noise barriers to eliminate these exceedances must be implemented before construction. Where exceedances cannot be eliminated, negotiation between the resident and TfNSW must be undertaken and if an agreement cannot be found, alternative construction methods must be undertaken

- A resident review/consultation ongoing review forum – e.g. regular meetings, with key stakeholders, including residents to discuss results from monitoring and mitigation. There should be a portal where information can be accessed in real time and complaints made, monitored and addressed by TfNSW.
- The community should be informed the full list of conditions that determine when night work can be conducted, and not to be left to the discretion of the contractor at the time. Consideration should be given to restrict types of work within standard construction hours – ensuring loud activities are conducted only at appropriate times when school students are absent, and daily respite times to noise, vibration and truck movements (beyond minimising truck movements during peak traffic times). These restrictions should be developed from real consultation with the community, not determined by the contractors.

Tunnel Justification

Objection

I object to the justification for needing the tunnel on the basis the analysis was prepared in 2016 based on data that is no longer relevant given our post COVID and working from home environment. In addition, I believe that public transport options are not dealt with comprehensively in the EIS and should be revisited along with a review of the traffic projections. TfNSW have unashamedly reduced bus services in our community due to less commuters due to COVID without community consultation and further work needs to be consider for better public transport options for our area rather than putting in tunnel that has no proposed bus lanes or ability to upgrade to a train line.

Request

There are many new data points to factor in given the impact of COVID-19 on lifestyles long term and I would like TfNSW to stop the development process to allow for a suitable review of a post COVID environment (once stabilised) with a more comprehensive review of public transport options, and to publicly release the results of the review to the community.