

To whom it may concern,

I object to the construction of the Beaches Link Tunnel for the following reasons:

1. It has poor economics and does not merit funding, especially following the pandemic and the accumulation of massive public debt. An economic model of the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel shows that the people of NSW will likely have to subsidise a private operator for an amount in the range of \$5 - \$8 billion (if the operator buys a 100% stake in the Tunnel). This is an amount that would buy a lot of public transport options and capacity for the residents of the Northern Beaches.
2. It is not a strategic priority. In February 2020, Infrastructure Australia published its updated list of what it considers to be the high priority infrastructure projects (see Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure Priority List – Project and Initiative Summaries, Feb 2020) – this list covers all types of infrastructure. The projects are grouped High Priority Initiatives and Priority Initiatives. The Western Harbour and Beaches Link Tunnels are classified a “Priority Initiative” and not a “High Priority Project”.
3. There is no provision for public transport using the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel to connect with the Metro Train Network, or a commitment to have a public transport lane in the tunnel. This misses a massive opportunity to reduce car transport and congestion across the already heavily congested Northern Beaches.
4. The smokestacks are massive, unsightly and unfiltered, set to release double the maximum recommended limit of particulates recommended by the WHO and will be releasing toxic gases in the immediate proximity to a large school and homes.
5. To reduce congestion and connect the city, money would be better spent on a driverless high speed metro instead which connects to the metro in Crows Nest or Chatswood, allowing people to not need cars to travel quickly and easily across the city. Building the Beaches Link Tunnel represents a lost opportunity to expand and improve public transport options for the residents of the Northern Beaches to access the new Metro Rail Network. I strongly support the option for a public transport link from the Chatswood Metro Station to Dee Why (via the Northern Beaches Hospital Precinct) or from Crows Nest to Dee Why via the densely inhabited and heavily congested area of Military Rd Mosman.
6. The construction will lead to the destruction of the Balgowlah Golf Course and have 500 trucks each day dredging up earth from 2023 to 2028, causing massive noise and dust issues on the surrounding areas, including the large school of Balgowlah Boys. It will lead to a very unsightly construction site and traffic chaos too for 6 years, a significant period, and result in a tunnel which just encourages more cars and traffic.
7. It will cause ongoing pollution to the sensitive creeks and waterways at Manly Dam and Garigal National Park. I understand that 39 football fields of bushland will be cleared as well as 2,000 trees. As NSW has committed to Net Zero by 2050, it is critical that we preserve existing forests and wildlife areas which also contribute to the liveability of our surroundings.
8. During construction, 425 000 litres of waste water will be washed into Manly Lagoon, polluting an already stressed natural environment and affecting local wildlife and residents considerably.

9. At Middle Harbour, toxic chemicals in the harbour sediment will be disturbed during dredging, posing a major threat to the marine environment and the local parks like Clontarf which people from across Sydney know and love.
10. Congestion will increase on our local roads, both during and after construction, with new sets of traffic lights and an increased number of cars as public transport becomes an even less viable option on the Northern Beaches due to the tunnel, in a massive section of Sydney which already lacks high speed transport options and further forces residents to use cars.

The recent disasters (drought, bushfires, floods and the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic) have placed extraordinary pressure on the current and future budgets of the State and Federal Government. Please do not start a project that has poor economics, lower strategic priority and will only encourage more cars, pollution and destruction of the beautiful Northern Beaches which we have chosen as our home because of its natural beauty. Please invest in a high speed driverless public transport option instead. Thank you.