

27 February 2021

**Objection: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Upgrade – SSI\_8862**

We are Northern Beaches residents living in Allambie Heights and will be directly impacted by the planned upgrade. We write to express our strong objection to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project for the following reasons

1. The cost of the project far outweighs the benefits. Projected trip times and an estimated only 10% less traffic on Military Rd make it hard to justify a \$14 billion+ infrastructure project such as this.
2. There is no integrated public transport solution in the in the tunnel to encourage less cars on the road. There is also no public transport alternative study to compare this project to. While the B1 bus service has been a welcome addition to our local public transport, the Northern Beaches peninsula, including the new hospital site, continues to have inadequate public transport infrastructure links to the train network and other major hubs such as North Sydney, Chatswood and Macquarie Park. This is not being addressed in any way by the proposed tunnel.
3. The projected toll of \$7-8 each way will make using this infrastructure unaffordable to many. This puts the cost of tolls at around \$30 PER DAY to drive from our home to work. We will avoid this tunnel due to this cost and continue to use Military Rd or Warringah Rd to travel to the city. The Northern Beaches is already taxed heavily via road tolls when commuting and this tunnel simply adds to this cost of living here.
4. Environmental impacts are significant for little benefit. We kayak, swim and walk at Manly Dam regularly and are concerned about the impact of the construction along Wakehurst Parkway on this catchment area. We enjoy the harbour foreshore at Clontarf and are concerned about damage and pollutants from dredging. We swim at Queenscliff and are concerned about the waste water from the site being washed into Manly Lagoon.
5. Our son will be a student at Balgowlah Boys High School from 2024-2030 and we are share the concerns of the school community in regards to noise, pollution, traffic and disruption to his studies with the proximity to the building site during construction and the unfiltered exhaust stack once completed. Balgowlah Boys Campus is directly south of the construction site and is a mere 322 meters away. It has around 1000 Y7 to Y12 students and yet it has not been included as a "Community Receiver" in section 12 of the EIS for assessment of air quality.

We acknowledge the need for a solution to the traffic congestion along the Military Rd corridor, however this project appears to benefit residents in the Mosman/ Cremorne / Neutral Bay area far more than those on the Northern Beaches and those directly impacted by the construction. Population growth on the Northern Beaches is inevitable, but surely an integrated public transport network is a far better use of funds. This project does nothing to help with our nations' goals for reducing emissions and reliance on fossil fuels and privately owned vehicles.

We ask for the EIS to be reissued for public consultation with the following

- 1) A full Phase 2 Contamination Assessment completed
- 2) A comparative mass transit alternative assessment
- 3) Travel times, surface traffic changes and costs fully scoped ie a business case