

Objection to the Beaches Tunnel Link proposal and EIS

I am writing to communicate my objection to the Beaches Link Tunnel and to provide feedback and express my concern about the latest EIS for the Beaches Link Tunnel. Please delete all personal information included in this submission before uploading to any public forums including the DSIE website.

On a personal level the quality of my life will be impacted by a tunnel which I believe is inconsidered and lacks a transparent business model. COVID has taught us that a considerable proportion of the workforce prefer to work at home and we have all benefitted from the reduction in traffic and pollution and travel time for those who continue to work in the city. I would consider that this significant change to work practices, the size of the population on the Northern Beaches, the success of initiatives such as the B Line, the high cost of tolls, makes this project untenable. The impact on my quality of life will destroy my life as I know it, every morning and evening I walk my dog with friends and neighbours along the unique Burnt Bridge Creek, a source of immense pleasure not only for my dog, but for me. My walk restores me every day and creates awe and wonder at the beauty of nature and creates peace and calm. This unique indigenous site will be destroyed with a 96% permanent loss of the base waterflow, destroying the vegetation and animals, include the unique bat community who currently thrive in the creek. Your EIA recognises that the creek is a "vital ecological corridor" and I would argue that it is a unique human corridor for dog walkers, walking commuters, bike riders and those seeking peace and tranquillity in a green corridor, something which I thought our current government valued highly.

What else concerns me personally about the impact of the tunnel? Seven years of building work will impact on my health as I am an asthmatic with chronic issues, how are you going to help me and thousands of others including children in schools and day care centres so close to building works. Are you going to pay for double or triple glazing and air conditioning for schools and homes in the area? Even if the government did provide these things our time outside would be severely limited, or do you envisage seven years of wearing face masks or gas masks? Let alone the reality that there will be unfiltered tunnel stacks which will impact across the valley and will be as visibly dominant as Stocklands at Balgowlah. We know that the building work is going to go on for seven years, five and a half days a week, with noise and vibration and pollution impacting on over 4,000 homes, mine included.

You also need to consider the impact on mental health, anxiety and depression and suicide are endemic, especially as a result of COVID. Building so close to Balgowlah Boys' High, Seaforth Public School and St Cecelia's Primary Schools, as well as numerous pre-school centres will result in mental health issues not only for students, but for teachers and support staff as well.

The other personal joy of living in Seaforth is to be able to swim at Clontarf regularly throughout the summer and I do not feel confident that the dredging of the harbour will not destroy the water quality and create toxicity in much loved beaches such as Clontarf and Balmoral.

I also object to:

- the significant impact to Wakehurst Parkway, Manly Dam and bushland and waterways close to the harbour foreshore including water and air pollution and losses of local flora and fauna.
- the lack of consideration of alternatives including expansion of public transport, making Military Road a permanent clearway and expanding ferry use, for example from Clontarf.

-the final cost and the time frame of building a tunnel, which based on other government projects, including the light rail, will impact on the quality of life of the community and the viability of businesses in the area.

I strongly object to the Beaches Tunnel Link proposal on social and economic grounds.