

7 Water Reserve Road

North Balgowlah, 2093

New South Wales

29 Feb 2021

To whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel and the dire impact it is going to have on my home, my neighbourhood, my community and my local environment.

The plans for Beaches Link need to urgently be looked at through the 2021 eyes of a post pandemic world. This is the world that now has to consider the careful balance between progress, economic recovery and the health of our people. NSW has done the most tremendous job of getting this juggle right through a pandemic, and we are so proud of our leaders, their ability and vision to make this work for us all, like no other part of the world. This way of thinking now needs to be applied to way we move forward and plan our future - the careful balance must be the overriding objective of all large decisions going forwards. If anyone can do this, the leaders of NSW can.

Firstly, I am very concerned about impact the construction phase of the project will undoubtedly impact North Balgowlah residents with dust, noise, vibration, and heavy vehicle traffic in the area. North Balgowlah will have construction surrounding most of the suburb and the EIS indicates that during construction there will be: over 3,000 vehicles per day across all sites, 1,690 vehicles per day at the Balgowlah Golf Course site alone, 5 heavy vehicles every minute or 4.5 vehicles (total) every minute, over 4,000 homes subjected to excessive noise for the duration of the long build time. The period of this construction time is 24/7 for up to 7 years, this is no way for a community to live.

I am also terribly concerned about the pollution from the traffic exhaust that will come with the completed tunnel. This poses serious health risks to all who live in the surrounding areas, not to mention the environment. From what I have read and understand emissions will include nitrous oxides and particulate matter that, when breathed into the lungs, causes respiratory diseases such as asthma and emphysema, and cancer. The site of the tunnel impacts several schools, preschools, childcare centres, and sporting fields, not to mentioned many many homes - within close vicinity of all the proposed ventilation stacks. There is no way this can be claimed as "safe" and acceptable levels of pollution for such high density city living.

Lastly the environment impact from such a project is significant and will cause major damage to our natural environment. Face. This particular area includes bushland, reserves and of course most famously the beaches. Particular Environment impacts I am concerned about are; the movement of contaminated sediment to Clontarf and Middle Harbour (The Spit) potentially causing pollution of the neighbouring beaches, the destruction of Burnt Bridge Creek and surrounds (e.g., bushland, wildlife etc) due to a possible 96% reduction in water flow AND the discharge of 428,000 L per day of wastewater into Queenscliff Lagoon & Beach, resulting in health hazards for people and animals who swim in the waterways. These are going to be the very same people using the tunnel to get to these pristine beaches. Ironical. What is the point of making the northern beaches more accessible if the very heart of what makes the northern beaches so special is to be polluted, destroyed and no longer the pride of Sydney?

We have seen the power of a state pulling together in a pandemic, something we could never have imagined before, and I am hopeful this same coming together can be used to plan growth and development for NSW without the dire consequences I have outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

Pippa Bonifant