

Note: Please delete my personal details before publication

Date:28/02/2021

Objection: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Upgrade – SSI_8862

I am writing to express my objection to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project. I have done my best to read the extensive EIS documents at this very difficult time. I have significant concerns about the justification for this project particularly given that there is no published business case, it is not high on Infrastructure Australia's priority list, the EIS demonstrates a significant risk to health and safety and the project and an alternative public transport option has not been fully scoped and compared.

I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. The timing of release of this project at the end of what has been a very challenging year. This project impacts a large number of schools and passes through highly residential areas. Families, community groups and schools have been under a huge amount of strain throughout the exhibition stage. School P&C's did not have the opportunity to review the documents and parents were caring for children on school holidays. The 12,000+ paged documents are very difficult to read on screen and the Library was not allowing borrowing. The project should be re-exhibited well after the COVID-19 crisis has passed and when normal life returns and when we understand the permanent changes that it has made.
2. I object to the project due to the contamination risks it presents to the environment and to human health and the negative impact on our precious waterways and green spaces.
3. I object to using Flat Rock area as a dive site because it holds some of the very precious Sydney bird and wildlife habitat. It is very embarrassing that during such climate change catastrophes we are adding another environmental impact to the careful ecological balance
4. I object to the construction of beaches link tunnel and request to revisit the need for the tunnel. Since 2020 about 60-70% of the workforce is Working from home. Have studies been conducted to understand the changed traffic patterns and the need for a tunnel to connect to the city? It is alarming that we are ignoring the present and undertaking such destruction of wildlife and causing annoyance and frustration to people living in the areas of impact without even realising that there needs to be a need analysis on the effect of beaches link!
5. I object to the project due to the scale, extent and risk of groundworks in sensitive residential areas and foreshore environments for example, I don't want digging underground 24/7. I strongly disagree to the works undertaken as they are not deemed necessary due to the decrease in traffic to and from the city.
6. The construction is going to increase dust levels, noise levels and pollution levels. World class filters are not in use and this is appalling considering there are at least 2 ovals and schools in the impact area. Does this mean that the residents health and well being are going to be ignored?
7. I object to the project due to the unreasonable level of impact on the Quality of Life of residents during the tunnel construction and operation because;

- Our walking areas and surroundings are going to be severely impacted due to the dust and the noise. We already have the freeway traffic to deal with and the respite is provided by the flat rock walk and the bushland. That shouldn't be taken away from the residents

1. I object to the project due to the threat to our biodiversity and green spaces. For example,

I have had visits from Kookaburras, powerful owls, koalas and also possums. I am extremely nervous and will be anxious if they are harmed in anyway. It might cause mental health issues in residents like me, as we have been living with the flora and fauna for a number of years. It is deeply upsetting that this special bond between humans and nature has not been considered.

2. I object to the project as it is a tolled road and there is little evidence that it will alleviate current congestion.

Due to COVID, the traffic to city has reduced as many people are WFH. A needs analysis to understand the current traffic patterns should be conducted before going ahead full swing with the project.

3. I object to the project as it has a poor climate profile at a time when we should be looking to projects which reduce our emissions.

I am gravely concerned about the health impact of the current and future residents of this area. We might see increase in Asthma, Eczema and other associated long-term conditions due to increase in pollution.

4. I object to the project as there has been no publicly published business case and the costs demonstrated in the EIS seem to far outweigh the benefits. The EIS also fails to fully scope many aspects such as utilities and contamination which poses a risk to the project.

I am deeply unhappy that the online sessions conducted did not have any active participation. Please organise workshops and discussions forum with real people to understand the concerns and complaints.

5. I object to the project because the B-Line buses have been successful in reducing congestion and no public transport alternative studies have been done with which to compare this project.

The EIS demonstrates that this toll road will be extremely expensive to build and high risk with little benefit. I would ask that an alternative public transport feasibility study be published before any further planning occurs so that impacts and outcomes can be fairly compared.

Yours sincerely,

Pallavi Bakre

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Declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous 2 years	Pallavi Bakre: have not made any reportable political donations ever
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