

Objection: Beaches Link Tunnel

As a resident of Wanganella Street, with my home backing onto Balgowlah golf course, I strongly object to the construction of the Beaches tunnel. Not only will the tunnel significantly impact my family and our home, but the impact to our local Northern Beaches will be devastating.

Objection 1: The tunnel does not achieve its primary objective to significantly reduce travel time to/from the Northern Beaches

The aim of the tunnel as I understand it, is to reduce travel times, however the benefits that are minimal at best and inaccurate and flawed at worst. Claims that in 2037 the time savings for drivers from (e.g.) Brookvale and Balgowlah will save 30+ minutes to drive to the city, the airport and beyond when it currently takes less than 35 minutes to drive from Balgowlah to the City. The savings of 10% on travel along Military Road equate to c. 4 minutes at best. **I do not believe this small time saving, justifies the cost nor does the project meet its primary objective and I object to the project on these grounds.**

As a city worker, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been working from home full time, no longer needing to commute into the city. My employer, a large ASX listed company, has implemented a permanent 'home and hub' operating model, allowing employees to work flexibly on an ongoing basis, with the majority opting for at least 2 days per week at home. The modelling used in the EIS take no account of this, nor public transport improvements that have been made since the modelling was completed, such as the B-Line express bus service.

If these forecasts are wrong, the claim for time savings is wrong and the \$-value benefit in the Benefit Cost Analysis (together with the Benefit Cost Ratio) will be wrong. In addition, the value of the toll revenue for the operator will be wrong – as will the amount an investor in the tunnel is prepared to pay the government, meaning the cost will fall to us, the taxpayers. I believe this money would be better spent on improving public transport links.

Objection 2: Construction Impacts

Many thousands of residents will be subject to excess noise and vibration from the construction of the project, including potential damage to homes. The EIS provides no exact information on the mitigation measures that will be put in place to prevent to mitigate this. As residents of a home backing directly onto the golf course, we will be significantly impacted by noise and dust. Will there be a noise wall put up during construction to minimise this risk? The methods used to mitigate construction noise (such as noise walls) are not fully dealt with in the EIS - they just say they will arrange mitigation later. **We should have more information and confidence in these strategies, rather than just being told "we'll sort it out later". This is not a short term project, this is an 8-10 year construction project. Residents need to have assurances around the impact to our lives for this period of time.**

Standard construction hours will be 7am-6pm weekdays and 8am-1pm Saturdays, with night work conducted "when required". The impacted residents should be informed the full list of conditions that determine when night work can be conducted, and not to be left to the discretion of the contractor at the time. This should include any construction activities within the site boundaries.

Understanding that tunnelling works continue 24/7, **we object to tunnelling works being conducted outside acoustic sheds outside standard construction hours. We need assurances that there will be no exceptions to this condition based on timeline, cost or machinery used.**

Numerous examples can be provided on similar projects of contractors breaking restrictions during construction, and it relies on residents to report these breaches. It is too much to expect residents to monitor worksites – TfNSW must be responsible for monitoring contractor compliance, with appropriate penalties for breaches

Objection 3- Traffic and parking

Whilst the EIS states the car parking for construction workers will be provided on site in Balgowlah, and workers would be encouraged to use public transport or shuttle buses. However, experience on other similar projects has found that worker car parking is universally a problem, with large numbers of workers parking on local streets. The surrounding streets of the construction site, such as Pickworth Avenue and Wanganella Street are regularly full. **Guarantees need to be provided to ensure workers are not permitted to park in local streets, without being reliant on council to enforce local parking restrictions.**

Noise, dust and traffic disruption from truck movements will have significant impacts on residential areas surrounding the sites. Heavy trucks carrying large machinery, concrete and spoil will travel on our roads, and queue to get in and out of the sites creating more congestion. Based on numbers in the EIS, the number of truck movements works out to be close to 1 large truck every minute from Balgowlah construction zone. **Restrictions must be placed on the volume and timings of truck movements carrying spoil that ensures local streets are not impacted. Restrictions must be placed on the volume and timings of truck movements carrying spoil that ensures local streets are not impacted.**

Objection 4- Environmental Impact:

Groundwater flows into the Burnt Bridge Creek will be reduced by around 80% while the tunnels are being built and up to 96% after completion of the project. This will have a significant impact to the flora and fauna in the Burnt Bridge basin. In addition, there will be reduced quality of water that flows into Manly Lagoon and into the ocean at Queenscliff Beach will fall – potentially leading to water pollution during times of reduced rainfall.

More than 12 ha of high value bushland will be destroyed with the widening of the Wakehurst Parkway from North Seaford to the intersection of the Parkway with Warringah Road. Again having a devastating impact on flora and fauna.

The disturbance of sludge on the bottom of Middle Harbour presents a major problem for communities that spend time in Middle Harbour, Spit Marina, Sandy Bay and Clontarf Beach and Children's Ocean Pool. The tide will carry the sludge towards Spit Bridge and beyond – with potentially high levels of very nasty toxins in the waters of Sandy Bay and in the Clontarf Ocean Pool. The control of sediment, silt and sludge by means of floating curtains around the construction site in Middle Harbour is a serious challenge – and the contractor will not be able to provide a guarantee that the levels of toxins in the waters of Sandy Bay and Clontarf Beach will be within safe levels. **As a mum of young children who regularly play in these beaches, I believe that the risks for the community are unacceptable and I object to the project on these grounds.**

Why are there no filtration systems on the ventilation stacks? In 2008, Gladys Berejiklian herself said *"Members of Parliament should examine their conscience and consider how they would feel if their children or the children of loved ones were exposed to this level of fumes every day and they were part of a government that could have put in place measures to reduce the impact of the fumes,"*

How then can her and her government support this project in its current form? These stacks are so close to many schools and child care facilities. Surely our government should be doing whatever they can to reduce the health risk to its citizens. The tunnel project will increase levels of a variety of pollutants for all in the area- for which there is no safe level of exposure according to health experts. While there is a cost associated with this, surely you cannot put a price on our children's health?

Objection 5- Design of Balgowlah Green Space

The EIS shows the removal of many trees for construction. We request that tree groups 720, 721, 758-771, 20331-20360 are retained to protect residents such as us, who face directly onto the golf course from noise and dust during construction. We also request retention of these for the retention of fauna and flora.

Whilst we acknowledge that the design of the Balgowlah green space is not yet finalised, we request that the facilities building be moved further away from the homes on Wanganella St. The current position blocks the outlook of homes. We bought this property for the outlook onto green space and would not have bought it if we knew it was going to look onto a toilet block.