

Erin Remblance
29 Prince Edward Road
Seaforth, NSW 2092
0401 958 816

Submission re Objection to the proposed Northern Beaches Tunnel

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this submission to make formal my objection to the proposed Northern Beaches Tunnel.

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Special Report into 1.5 degrees of Global Warming](#) advised:

“Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems (high confidence). These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options (medium confidence).”

However, there seems to be no acknowledgement of this stark warning, with a tunnel that was proposed before this report still being proposed with seemingly little consideration of the impact on our ability to decarbonise and meet our international obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Per the EIS, this project will increase NSW’s emissions during the construction phase by 723,700t CO₂e, and continue to increase emissions every year thereafter when the tunnel is in use. This is a gross misuse of funds (\$10-12 billion, or highly likely more) that could be used to significantly reduce NSW’s greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to note that the NSW government’s 2030 emissions reduction target of 35% is well below what is required to achieve the Paris Agreement objectives of 1.5 degrees of warming.

As a tax paying citizen of NSW I believe the funding for this project (and any similar projects) should be directed into decarbonising projects such as renewable energy, electrification and insulation of buildings, improved public transport and EV infrastructure and incentives until we know that we have met our international commitments. There is simply too much at stake if we do not stop warming the planet. “Nice-to-have” projects like the Northern Beaches Tunnel cannot not proceed until we have invested in projects that are “necessary” to secure our children’s futures.

Budgets are, of course, finite, and need to be spent wisely. This tunnel, at this critical point in time, is not a wise use of funds. We need to be heavily investing in projects that will reduce emissions across all sectors, and this project, according to its own EIS, is not one of those projects.

Kind regards,

Erin Remblance