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I OBJECT to the Beaches Link Tunnel.

OBJECTION to the exhaust stack and its health impacts:

Rob Stokes, when he was Minister for education, also objected to the exhaust stacks in 2017.

stating:

“I won’t be party to putting stacks near kids. There is no way in hell that I’d support any development that would put the lives of pupils, teachers and parents at risk.”

Although, Manly MP James Griffin, suggested we were basing our concerns on out-of-date information by saying:

“My understanding is the information relates to documents that were put to Cabinet some time ago. This was put to Cabinet as part of the business case for the tunnel it is not related to the recent geotechnical drilling or exploratory works done to date.”

I have heard however, via CSIRO reports and other international reports that there is no safe level of exhausts, even when filtered. and it seems that the exhaust stacks in this valley will not even be filtered. The fumes then lingering at the lower levels of the valley than could possibly be healthy for anyone, let alone children.

You also need to the question pre- knowledge of all these events and concerns when Rob Stokes own sister sold out of Kempbridge Avenue, Seaforth.

The concept of building such tunnels with damaging exhaust stocks is totally objectionable especially on the edge of a valley where Seaforth drops down into Balgowlah at the Burnt Bridge Creek, next to the two schools, and the thousands of residents, including families with small children (whose cells are rapidly replicating) who will be forced to live by it, 24/7.

The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer has claimed that,

“...using ventilation outlets and avoiding portal emissions are the most effective methods of mitigating the air quality impacts of road tunnels. These methods result in a negligible change to surrounding

air quality and as such, there is little to no health benefit for surrounding communities in installing filtration and air treatment systems in such tunnels.”

However, we would counter that it is no qualification that the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer is claimed to be “independent”—for to us that means a person who has no interest in the area as a resident. You must listen to the interested stakeholders—many of whom suspect that the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer would change his attitude if he lived in this area. For “little health benefit” is very different from “no health benefit” and we cannot be so easily convinced by such assertions that the Burnt Bridge Creek valley area at Seaforth-Balgowlah may not become a cancer cluster in the future or simply an area with diminished health in general. The many resident families and families of students in the nearby schools who might have assumed that there was “no way in hell” an exhaust stack was going to be built in their vicinity having been deceived by Stokes, Griffin, and this government and its bureaucrats.

OBJECTION to the construction and broader environmental impacts:

If the government or the Chief Scientist continue to dismiss this human aspect of the impact then we note also the climate change emissions and the impact on the Balgowlah Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp as the basis for our further natural environment OBJECTIONS. One must consider and OBJECT to the thousands of trucks and heavy machines coming and going from the multi-year construction site 24 HOURS A DAY. (“At our construction peak, there will be around 495 heavy vehicle movements and 1195 light vehicle movements per day”). The State government (Matt Keen et al) has shown a complete dedication to destroying the coal-based power grid and this same climate change policy logic allows us also to OBJECT on climate change grounds to the tunnel project.

My other objection is the relatively shallow levels that the tunnel entrance/exits are to existing properties and the added vibrations on top of the traffic issues mentioned above, and the potential for damage to properties.

In conclusion, there are no benefits to creating these tunnels to the existing residents of Seaforth, we will only have all the associated disadvantages of these projects and totally object.