

Submission

Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection Environmental Impact Statement

introduction

I have major concerns about this new tunnel and road way. The EIS is over 10,000 pages long and it would be impossible for me to read through it and make meaningful comments on all the points raised. There will be many submissions made covering many areas. Following are the main concerns I have:

Concern 1 - Why?

Why is this even being built? A major reason seems to be that it reduces the travel time along Military Road by 10%. My comment to this would be that this would be barely noticeable. This is an insignificant benefit for a project which will cost \$10b to \$12b.

Concern 2 - Public Transport

The government should instead be improving public transport. Why not put in a metro system? This would keep cars off the road and have far less impact on the environment. I actually heard the NSW Premier say on television last night about the importance of getting people on to public transport and thereby reducing congestion. You are not "Walking the Talk" here.

Instead of scrapping the Manly Freshwater ferries they should be kept on. We are so lucky to have the ferry network and the government should be building it up, not dismantling it. The Emerald class will not be able to run in rough seas thereby putting pressure on the road system when ferry passengers are put on buses.

Concern 3 - Induced Demand

I am sure others will write about this too - Induced Demand - where the more the supply the more the demand. Building new highways therefore gives short term relief. The short term relief will be lucky to be 5 years. The government should not be encouraging people to get in their cars - refer back to my Concern 2.

Concern 4 - Impact on Schools

There are 3 schools in the near vicinity and these schools will be impacted greatly during the construction period. There will be noise, dust, vibration and accessibility issues to name a few. I am sure the schools will be sending in their own submissions so I will not elaborate.

Concern 5 - Environmental Issues

I have major concerns about the environmental issues:

- Burnt Bridge Creek will be reduced to a trickle and maybe dry up and that will impact greatly on the flora and fauna.
- There will be flow on effects to our beloved hidden gem Manly Dam.
- Many many trees will be cut down and I note that Balgowlah Boys High School will lose trees along Sydney Road meaning even more exposure to the dust and noise of the construction.

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