



Introduction:

Balgowlah Golf Club objects in the strongest possible terms to the Beaches Link Tunnel. The key elements of our objection relate to:

- The proposed project, as it stands, is not an approved project nor does it have an approved budget (response provided to specific question in Community Consultation webinar). As such, significant tax payer funds are expended on an un-approved project.
- The proposed project is discriminatory to the elderly.
- The proposed project is discriminatory against the golfing community generally.
- The proposed project fails to consider the real benefits to the community as a whole.
- The proposed project fails to consider the real impacts on the environment in all elements.
- The proposed project fails to consider the real impacts on the existing local fauna and flora.

Background:

Balgowlah Golf Course is part of Balgowlah park which was established by the NSW Government in 1875. The Golf Course was first leased to the Balgowlah Golf Club under the Balgowlah Park Reserve Trust in 1926 (95 years). During almost a decade, the Balgowlah Golf Club has enabled recreation, entertainment and exercise for ALL people, regardless of age.

Balgowlah Golf Club has over 600 Members and caters for public non-Members. We have members ranging in age from 8 to 80. In 2020 46,000 rounds of golf were played. As a Public course, BGC meets the needs of its members at a reasonable cost. This provides equity for people to access the sport who may not be able to afford the cost structures of private clubs. The club also meets the need of the public golfer who does not belong to a club, some 20,000 rounds

Areas of Concern:

- The Balgowlah Golf Course provides recreation, exercise and entertainment to ALL ages, including the elderly. Over 65,000 rounds of golf equivalent to some 130,000 hours of exercise, which has not been addressed in the EIS to any level of satisfaction. To prioritise the use of a playing field which is utilised sparingly (even on weekends) over a Golf Course that has demonstrated significant usage all days of the week, is discriminatory to the elderly and the Community. The positive impacts upon the community are well researched in the Community Impact Study: Golf in NSW November – Refer Attachment 1.
- Construction of the Beaches Link tunnel may result in the permanent loss of a significant percentage (quoted up to “96%”) of the water flow in Burnt Bridge Creek, effectively decimating the water life, flora and the animals and water creatures that rely on it for survival. The secondary impacts upon those who utilise the adjacent paths for recreation.



- The efficacy of current approaches to road tunnel ventilation, and the associated discharge of tunnel exhaust air to the atmosphere.
- The absence of rigorous and effective review processes that are at genuine arm's length from the promoters, developers and ultimate operators of these items of infrastructure.
- The possibility of performance failures that will lead to significant public health exposures and risks.
- The absence of processes that will allow public access to actual operational air quality performance data, both internal and external to prospective road tunnels, and the associated risk that accurate and objective performance data may not be made public.
- The apparent absence of fall back and contingency ventilation and exhaust air discharge strategies, in the event that the currently proposed approaches fail.

Threatened Species and their habitat:

A search of the Australian Government's database of matters protected under the provisions of the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 indicates a total of 43 nationally listed species are either known to occur in, or within one kilometre of, the Balgowlah Golf Course or to have habitat within that 1km radius of the centre of the golf course. These include a significant number of bird, mammal, plant and reptile species. A further 26 nationally listed migratory species or their habitats are found in the area.

Several endangered species or their habitats are '**known**' to occur within this 1km radius, while other listed species or their habitat are 'likely' or 'may' occur within the same 1km radius. Those known to occur in the area or to have habitat in the area are:

Migratory Wetland Species			
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit		Species or species habitat known to occur within area



Species	Common name	Status	Type of presence
Birds			
Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Limosa lapponica baueri	Bar-tailed Godwit	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Pachyptila turtur subantarctica	Fairy Prion (southern)	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Mammals			
Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Vulnerable	Roosting known to occur within area
Plants			
Pimelea curviflora var. curviflora		Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Prostanthera marifolia	Seaforth Mintbush	Critically endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Syzygium paniculatum	Magenta Lilly Pilly	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Migratory Marine Birds			
Fregata ariel	Lesser Frigatebird		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Migratory Terrestrial Species			
Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Monarcha trivirgatus	Black-faced Monarch		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher		Species or species habitat known to occur within area

Further Questions for Consideration:

How do the operators intend to rectify and compensate the Elderly for the benefits they currently enjoy by utilising the Golf Course?

There are a range of issues around road tunnel construction:

- Do they provide value for money?
- Do they in part solve a short-term congestion problem at the cost of inducing even more traffic and congestion in the future?



- Have road tunnels and road networks been properly assessed and prioritized in relation to other transport options, such as public transport infrastructure?
- Are proposed road tunnel projects being fully, thoroughly and independently modelled to quantify both in-tunnel and discharged air quality under a full range of operating conditions, including worst case traffic, congestion and vehicle emission scenarios?

Examples et.al of Detailed Concerns and Inconsistencies by Chapter of EIS:

Refer Attached Appendices:

- Chapter 4 – Project Development & Alternative
- Chapter 5 – Project Description
- Chapter 9 – Operational Traffic
- Chapter 12 – Air Quality
- Chapter 20 – Land Use & Property
- Chapter 21 – Socio Economics
- Chapter 22 – Urban Design & Visual Amenity

Attachment:

1. Community Impact Study: Golf in NSW November 2017