

28 February 2021

To whom it may concern,

I would be grateful if you could accept this letter as an **objection** to the community consultation process for the Northern Beaches Tunnel and associated works. My concerns are as follows:

1 – Due to the concentration of construction work in a small area, the level of disruption that will occur during construction in and around Balgowlah, Seaforth, and North Balgowlah will be so significant that I can see the following: large traffic holdups, in addition to the congestion already experienced during the day; and a rise in the number of accidents (vehicular and pedestrian) due to driver frustration and unfamiliarity with changed traffic conditions caused by major road work.

2 – The likely impact on the Burnt Bridge Creek corridor is reported to be very significant. If 90% or more of the creek flow is siphoned off due to ground work, how will this vital environmental corridor survive and where will the native fauna and flora that live there go? Also, the water quality of Manly Lagoon will be jeopardised if inflow from the creek is reduced.

3 – As demonstrated on other transport projects, there is likely to be fundamental change to the character of the lower Northern Beaches. I can foresee that future governments will seek to make development in this area denser, however it is the relatively low density nature of the suburbs surrounding the tunnel's entrances that draw people to live there. Personally I have encountered many people who have recently moved away from busier and denser occupied areas, and found the environment of this area a great release from the constant traffic, noise and concrete of the inner city and inner west for instance.

4 – Balgowlah Golf Course is a key area of open space that is very well utilised by local residents, as is the oval and scout hall that are located next to it. The loss of these facilities will be significant, both socially and environmentally, so should be reconsidered.

5 – During and likely after construction, the corridor through Balgowlah and North Balgowlah to the Wakehurst Parkway is likely to become a very busy rat run, more so than it already is. The resulting increase in traffic volume would not be a good outcome as the roads through these areas are at places narrow with parked cars on either side of the road, and have right angle and arguably blind corners. This is particular the case around North Balgowlah Public School, where an increase in traffic would endanger students, staff and caregivers at all times of the school day, but particularly around school starting and finishing times. If approval is granted, traffic calming measures will be necessary in an effort to mitigate these impacts. The subject roads that are part of this rat run are: Balgowlah Road, Manning Street, Woodbine Street, Bangaroo Street, Kitchener Street and Judith Street, among others.

6 – Will people's houses, businesses and community facilities be safe from vibration, land subsidence and sink holes due to tunnelling? It is likely not true that there will be no impacts on surface activities from the tunnelling process, as seen on projects such as Westconnex and the Lane Cove Tunnel.

7 – For the life of the tunnel's usage, the release of car emissions from reportedly unfiltered towers located in or close to residential areas, that are also located in a geographical basin, is likely to have air quality and health consequences as the quality of the air breathed is diminished.

8 – The proposed toll for use of the tunnel (I believe it is suggested to be about \$8 each direction) is excessive, so if the tunnel is built a lower toll should be introduced or have no toll at all.

The tunnel and proposed road works are very concerning, so I as a local resident object to its current design.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Smith.