

The construction of the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway connection is a poorly thought out and poorly executed 'improvement' to transport in Greater Sydney and the Northern Beaches.

The project will have large negative impacts for the generation currently living in and around the construction area. As a resident who relies on leaving the Northern Beaches to earn my income and cannot work from home – this project will be extremely disruptive to tradespeople who must travel. The roads around the construction site will only become more congested before the project is finished as trucks and project workers flood the area and road access is limited as the roads are upgraded/changed. Access for this current generation will also be limited to the only major hospital in the area as Wakehurst parkway is commandeered for tunnel construction. The amenity of the area (in the Balgowlah, Seaforth) will be greatly decreased during and after construction as large vents will billow out car exhaust into the surround suburbs which includes many schools and outdoor recreation areas.

There are also major environmental concerns during construction and post construction. The clearing of excess bushland to widen Wakehurst Parkway will remove precious bushland from an already fragile ecosystem and will expose areas lower down in the catchments of Manly Dam and Garigal National Park to waste run off (during) and more polluted runoff (post). Not to mention the clearing of bush in Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park is the removal/destruction of one of the only living memorials to those who have fought and died for Australia. There is also potential for damage to Aboriginal sites along the parkway.

The project will also provide minimal benefit in its completed form. The travel time from the Northern Beaches will be reduced minimally and for a likely exorbitant toll cost. This will force those unable or unwilling to pay back on to the very roads the tunnel was built to replace. The tunnel will be wider than the Sydney Harbour Tunnel which services a exponentially larger pool of people – making the scale of the Beaches Link seem highly unnecessary. It will also bypass a host of local businesses in Mosman, Neutral Bay and Cremorne that rely on the traffic flow to continue their businesses.

Beaches link does not seem to be future minded. As the world shifts to better public transport, bikes and working from home it seems as though the billions could be better spent elsewhere putting more busses on the road rather than cutting services. Building bike lanes to make it a safer and faster experience for all road users. Pushing localised hubs of business to facilitate working in your local area rather than travelling to one location like the CBD.