



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects



Australian
Institute of
Architects



Planning
Institute
Australia

30 November 2018

Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 928
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059
via email: whtbl@rms.nsw.gov.au

RE: Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)**, the **Australian Institute of Architects (AIA)**, and the **Planning Institute of Australia** (“the Institutes”) appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NSW Government’s proposal for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link on behalf of the 3,600 members of AILA, more than 11,000 members of AIA, and 5,300 members of PIA around one third of whom reside in NSW.

The principles of the proposal are strongly supported, however, as our members act as key collaborators in the vision for Green Infrastructure and Open Space in NSW we provide some key recommendations below.

We also note that this major new infrastructure presents an opportunity to facilitate better, faster and safer transport across Sydney. However, continued focus on the primacy of private vehicles can offer only a short term, short-lived solution at best. Reliable, well located public transport is critical to addressing the problem of congestion, to which these projects are responding.

Accordingly, we urge that this and any associated projects are realised with: (1) a commitment to improving and extending public transport and active transport services/options; (2) strategic integration with broader planning that connects open spaces, public transport, active transport and the new roadways; and (3) a design approach that reflects a future-minded perspective that seeks to accommodate transport options not currently available.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Place-making and Open Space

1. Implement a broader transport outlook and place-making for the by-passed roads and streets.
2. Ensure there is no net loss of open space due to the construction, and an increase where possible.
3. Ensure there is no detrimental impact (or improvement where appropriate) on the quality of existing open space temporarily impacted by the project.

4. Ensure there is no net loss in urban tree canopy over roads and streets and where achievable an increase in canopy cover.
5. Implement the development of a new post-project master plan for the old Balmain Leagues Club site in Rozelle.
6. Ensure communities experience no diminishment of air quality in and around their homes and open spaces, neither as a result of construction nor of the projects' operation.

Active Transport

7. Ensure there is significant contribution and improvement to the active transport connections in the vicinity of the surface works.

Transport

8. Implement the highest quality transport infrastructure design – bridges, portals, walls, public spaces, and lighting.
9. Prioritise the projects' contribution to public transport. This means supporting existing public transport modes (namely the B-Line and Metro) and, critically, striving to accommodate the future with flexible design that can better facilitate public transport options that may be brought into operation in years ahead.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link. It is important that all stakeholders work closely together to ensure our communities retain a high quality of life well into the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Sincerely,



Mark Tyrrell
NSW Chapter President
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects



Andrew Nimmo
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PURPOSE

The joint submission is made by the **NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects**, the **Australian Institute of Architects** and the **Planning Institute of Australia** to Roads and Maritime Services in relation to the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- The **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)** champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship.
- AILA represents more than 3,600 members throughout Australia and overseas, approximately one-third who are based in NSW
- As a not-for-profit professional association, our role is to serve the mutual interests of our members and the wider profession.

- The **Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute)** is an independent voluntary subscription-based member organisation with more than 11,000 members who are bound by a Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.



- The Institute, incorporated in 1929, is one of the 96-member associations of the International Union of Architects (UIA) and is represented on the International Practice Commission.
- The Institute's New South Wales Chapter has more than 3,000 members.
- **Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)** is the national body representing planning and the planning profession. Through education, communication and professional development, PIA is the pivotal organisation serving and guiding thousands of planning professionals in their role of creating better communities.
- PIA currently represents approximately 5300 members nationally and internationally, and connects with more than 7500 planners annually. We are governed by a National Board of Directors and managed by a professional administration. We are a member-based organisation with its management complemented by volunteers, who support and contribute to our activities on various levels.

AILA is the growing national body representing over 3,600 active and engaged landscape architects, promoting the importance of the profession today and for the future. Committed to designing and creating open space for a better Australia, landscape architects shape the world around us. Landscape architects conceive, reimagine and transform the outside world from streetscapes to parks and playgrounds, transport solutions to tourism strategies, new suburbs and cities. Landscape architects represent a profession increasingly dominating the debates to lead policy making and deliver exemplary outcomes for healthy communities in liveable cities, towns and regions.

Our members bring a critical eye to the potential opportunities and constraints of a place, site, or landscape. The vegetation, soils, watercourses often navigated by infrastructure projects are but some of the technical issues we bring expertise to. We create conditions for nature to function and thrive, ensuring that infrastructure puts back as much as it takes from Australia's ancient landscape. We bring together other disciplines, in an integrated way to generate better outcomes.

As a professional body, we are active on infrastructure development teams of all types, often leading, connecting, facilitating and navigating to help achieve shared outcomes. Landscape architects lead design for the environment and people of all ages and cultures. Landscape architects represent a profession increasingly dominating the debates to lead policy making to deliver exemplary outcomes for our cities, towns, regions and their inhabitants. The work of Australian landscape architects is increasingly being recognised worldwide for our unique skills in creating liveable cities, healthy active spaces and sustainable design outcomes.



The **Australian Institute of Architects** (the Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with around 12,000 members across Australia and overseas. More than 3,000 of these are based in NSW.

The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and to expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture.

The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design.

The **Planning Institute of Australia's** mission is to champion the role of planning in shaping Australia's future. PIA will do this through strong leadership, advocacy and contemporary planning education.

Our vision is for PIA to be Australia's trusted voice on Planning.