**Council 27/11/18**

My name is Nerissa Levy and I have been a professional market researcher and data analyst for 20 years.

I wish to address a number of critical issues with the research used in the draft submission to RMS on the Beaches Link Tunnel.

It is inappropriate and misleading for the submission to assert that the tunnel has majority support in the community, when council’s research provides no evidence to support this assertion.

The online survey conducted by council of 217 respondents is not representative of the community – due to a small number of people answering, and the sources of those people being too narrow to be representative.

The research permitted multiple surveys from the one person, without IP address exclusions or other standard quality measures, and includes a dummy case in the real data (ID=1605017443), amongst other methodological issues.

When reporting aspects of the tunnel that people thought important, the figures presented are misleading. They show only the relative importance of aspects – they do not reflect how many people said it was important.

For example;

Road connectivity to portal – reported as 12%, re-calculation from the raw data shows it is important to 62% of people.

Emission stack operation and location – is reported as 11%, it is important to 59% of people.

The draft submission also misrepresents speakers at Councils Community Forum.

It states “a number of speakers in favour” of the tunnel - it was 2 people - and that opposition was “55% of 21 speakers”. Also not disclosed during the forum was that 1 of the speakers in favour was the Warringah Liberal Part Vice President, Mr Lee Furlong.

Missing from the submission was any mention of a speaker who asked for those who supported public transport instead of a tunnel via a show of hands. This received 80-90% of the room’s support.

Most critically, neither the survey, nor the forum speakers were directly asked for their support or opposition to the tunnel and it’s design - yet it is asserted there is majority community support in council’s submission. How can this be known, if it is not asked?

The community conducted it’s own survey of 727 people incorporating much wider recruitment sources.

A report of this research has been provided to council for consideration.

This survey revealed 87% opposition to the tunnel if it includes exhaust stacks close to homes and the permanent loss of usable green space, and 70% support for a mass transit system (such as rail or tram). 91% of people opposed unfiltered smokestacks within 500m of homes.

The community oppose this draft submission on the basis that endorsement of the tunnel is not based on community views as claimed. The submission also provides insufficient protections from negative impacts of the project - impacts that have been clearly stated as being opposed in the community’s research.