

SEA LINK – OPEN FLOOR HEARING 3

Cumulative Impact Focus

Good morning.

My name is Philip Smith, resident of Walberswick.

I want to focus on one issue in particular today:

Cumulative impact.

Because this is where the Sea Link project fails most clearly—and where the consequences for communities are most serious.

Not a Project in Isolation

Sea Link is not being proposed in isolation.

It sits alongside other major infrastructure projects.

Yet the reality experienced by local communities is this:

The combined impact is far greater than the sum of the individual projects.

And that combined impact has not been properly assessed.

What Communities Are Experiencing

Across this area, people are already living with:

- Severe congestion on rural roads never designed for heavy construction traffic
- Increased road accidents and wildlife deaths
- Pressure on housing, with rising rents and limited availability
- Noise, disruption, and loss of tranquillity

- And a growing toll on people's health and wellbeing

These are not theoretical impacts.

They are happening now.

Sea Link will add directly to this burden.

Failure to Properly Assess Cumulative Effects

The Applicant's approach to cumulative impact is inadequate in three key ways:

First, it underestimates the scale of overlap between projects—particularly in terms of timing and geography.

Second, it fails to properly assess combined effects on key receptors:

- Local communities
- The road network
- And the natural environment, including fragmented wildlife corridors

Third, it does not provide meaningful mitigation for these combined impacts.

Mitigation is considered project by project—but not in a way that reflects the lived reality on the ground.

Change Requests Reinforce the Problem

The changes we are discussing today only reinforce this concern.

They highlight:

- Incomplete information

- Evolving design
- And a lack of strategic coordination

This increases the risk that cumulative impacts are being continually underestimated and deferred.

What Is Needed

At a minimum, there must be:

- A transparent and comprehensive cumulative impact assessment across all major projects
- Proper coordination between developers
- And enforceable mitigation that reflects the combined, not individual, impacts

Without this, communities will continue to bear an unfair and unsustainable burden.

Conclusion

Cumulative impact is not a secondary issue.

It is the defining issue for this project and this region.

And at present, it has not been properly understood, assessed or mitigated.

For that reason alone, this project should not proceed as proposed.

Thank you.