



Mr Sam Haddad
Director General
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2000

Dear Mr Haddad

Modification to the M5 East Motorway Approval.

I refer to the RTA's request dated 25 October 2006 for modification to the M5 East Motorway Approval ("Approval").

The request included proposed amendments to the approval to allow the RTA to undertake a trial of in tunnel filtration and to emit air from the portals for the purposes of haze reduction in the tunnels.

RTA's environmental assessment report submitted with the request noted that the two proposals that comprise the modifications (i.e. partial portal emissions and a trial of tunnel filtration technology) would work in combination to reduce haze in the tunnel; however, each of the proposals may be operated independently of the other. The report also concluded that cumulatively and individually the proposed modifications would contribute to achieving the objectives of the air quality improvement plan and have acceptable impacts that would be managed in accordance with the environmental management commitments in the report.

RTA has undertaken extensive consultation with the community both prior to and since submitting the request. Having regard to the views of the community, RTA wishes to refine its request for modification to make clear that RTA will not emit air from the portals for the purposes of haze reduction until the filtration trial has commenced. Until the filtration trial commences current air quality management procedures for the tunnel would continue to apply.

RTA will continue to consult with the Department of Planning about the request for modification and the proposed amendments to the conditions of Approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Wielinga', written over a horizontal line.

Les Wielinga
Chief Executive

13.12.06