

Mr Fadi Shakir
Planning Officer
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
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Dear Mr Shakir

RE: WestConnex M4-M5 Link Project (SSI 7485— Modification 2) - EXH-2233

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WestConnex M4-M5 Link Modification 2 – The Crescent Overpass and Active Transport. Staff from the Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit have reviewed the report focussing on issues that may impact human health. The comments provided below are contingent on confirmation by the NSW EPA that the methods and modelling employed to assess environmental impacts in the modification report are appropriate.

We note that this modification will occur almost entirely within the construction and operation footprint of the original M4-M5 EIS, and therefore in general the same receivers are impacted with or without this modification.

However, we also note there are some new receivers which will experience noise guideline exceedances during construction, particularly in Annandale (on Bayview Crescent, Kentville Avenue, near the intersection of the Crescent and Johnston Street, and on the northern aspects of Johnston Street). We note that these receivers have been identified as eligible for the investigation of noise mitigation treatment, and we recommend that all reasonable and feasible actions are undertaken to minimise noise exceedances and their impacts. Some noise increases are also expected during operation for additional receivers as a result of this modification.

Worsened air pollution is predicted for some parts of Annandale as a result of this modification and should be mitigated. It is noted that air pollution is expected to be comparable to what would occur without the M4-M5 Link or during the operation of the M4-M5 Link without the proposed modification.

Consideration of how best to address “construction fatigue” related to this modification is critical as the health impact related to construction noise and disruption in particular can be significant. It is important to highlight that the health impacts from this project cannot be looked at in isolation. In the Rozelle, Annandale, and Balmain area, there is a confluence of concurrent and consecutive projects underway or planned for the area, including a number of projects not

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specifically mentioned within this report. Therefore more stringent mitigation measures than would usually be employed for comparable projects should be considered because of the cumulative impacts of the various projects. This may include redrafting relevant parts of the conditions of consent and/or ensuring that the impacts on these communities are adequately minimised in the construction management plans. It is particularly important to consider vulnerable populations such as the elderly, people with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses and children when developing mitigation strategies.

We refer you to the Sydney Local Health District guidelines *Building Better Health*, which can be found at: https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/PopulationHealth/UP_BBH.html. We recommend that these guidelines are referenced in this modification proposal and used as a reference when considering major development in the Inner West.

Thank you for the consideration of our submission to the WestConnex M4-M5 Link project modification. If you would like more information on any of the points raised in our submission, please contact Dr Kleete Simpson, Medical Epidemiologist, Public Health Unit on 02 9515 9420.

Yours sincerely

Dr Leena Gupta
Clinical Director, Public Health
20 September 2019