



PCU



From: Mrs Cecilia Croaker [REDACTED] Rd, Wahroonga 2076
Exhibition of State Significant Infrastructure Modification Request:
NorthConnex (M1-M2) Project - Modification
Application No SSI 6136 MOD 3

I have made no reportable political donations in the previous two years, or indeed ever.

I object in the strongest terms to this proposal. I am writing to register my absolute horror and disbelief at the modifications requested to the ventilation outlets of the North Connex tunnel. This community wants the stack to be filtered, not to have the emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds quadrupled! I cannot believe that in a democracy, where government is for the benefit of the people, we will be forced to breathe this toxic air.

Here in Wahroonga we have chosen this semi-rural environment for a reason - the benefits of nature. Please do not ruin this for the rest of time. It is a suburb full of schools, preschools, hospitals and nursing homes, not to mention ordinary human beings, each with the right to healthy, clean air.

I appreciate this government's efforts in providing better public transport, roads and motorways, and in replacing old buildings at Hornsby Hospital for example. Surely you can also provide filtration, (or piping of pollutants to areas outside Sydney), to deal with the pollution produced by NorthConnex. After all, you have allocated vast funds for a stadium. Surely the health and well-being of us citizens is of the greatest possible importance, beyond anything else.

This view is in fact supported by the NSW Parliament Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee itself. Their December 2018 report on the Impact of the WestConnex Project recommended: "That the NSW Government install, on all current and future motorway tunnels, filtration systems in order to reduce the level of pollutants emitted from ventilation stacks".

Why has the above report been ignored? Why are we so backward compared to other cities? Modern long urban road tunnels in locations such as Madrid, Italy and Hong Kong and others HAVE filtered ventilation - or else diesel trucks are not permitted.

I note that there is no safe limit for diesel particulates. A letter of concern about NorthConnex signed by over 200 local doctors in 2014 warned: "International air pollution experts state there is no safety threshold to the amount of air pollution causing health impacts, hence there is no "safe level". The smallest amount of air pollution will have a corresponding amount of health impact. Even low dose exposures to particulate matter have been demonstrated to have significant health risks."

The World Health Organisation has classified diesel emissions as a Group 1A carcinogen, which is the same class as asbestos, arsenic and mustard gas. The particulates deposit deep into lung tissue permanently and can pass into the blood and end up in any organ including the brain. These particulates are known to cause or exacerbate asthma and other respiratory illnesses, impair lung development in children and cause heart disease and cancer. Children show reduced lung function growth which persist later into life, even when exposure stops, i.e. the damage for growing lungs is permanent.

Please demonstrate that you are both listening to the community, and that you care about our lives and our futures. We all strongly object to the lack of filtration of the Wahrenonga ventilation stack and we are absolutely appalled at the possibility that emissions could be increased even more than previously stated. Please demonstrate that we live in a democracy, that yours is a government **for** the people, and please take action. Thank you.