



Health

Our Ref: H20/64462

Ms Belinda Scott  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Scott

**RE: Sydney Metro West Environmental Impact Statement (SSI-10038)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sydney Metro West Project (SSI-10038). NSW Health makes the following submission for your consideration.

NSW Health has focused its response to matters directly related to health. The main issues identified by NSW Health with potential health impacts are noise and air quality.

The comments provided are contingent on confirmation by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) that the methods and modelling employed to assess environmental impacts are appropriate.

**Construction Noise Impacts**

There is emerging evidence of the health impacts of environmental noise. The evidence is strongest for impacts on cardiovascular disease and sleep disturbance. Measures to limit community exposure to noise are therefore important to protect public health.

The EIS predicts that some residential and other sensitive receivers could experience exceedances of noise management levels as a result of construction activities, especially receivers surrounding proposed metro stations that will be major construction sites.

Standard noise mitigation measures are set out in Table 9, Appendix E; however, detailed mitigation measures that will be implemented if exceedances do occur should be provided at the earliest possible stage of the planning process. It is important that measures that will be taken if noise management levels are exceeded be informed by, and shared with, communities that could be most impacted.

**Construction air quality impacts**

Dust emissions from construction sites are a potential source of local air pollution. Surface construction sites of the project are close to a number of sensitive receivers. As well as implementing all reasonable and feasible dust suppression measures, it is important that regular evaluation of dust suppression measures are employed to ensure that such measures are effective at minimising community exposure to poor air quality.

**NSW Ministry of Health**

ABN 92 697 899 630

100 Christie Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

Locked Mail Bag 961, North Sydney NSW 2059

Tel (02) 9391 9000 Fax (02) 9391 9101

Website: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

## **Cumulative impacts**

The screening method (Appendix G) to identify cumulative impacts from construction of concurrent or consecutive projects is appropriate. Some communities in the vicinity of the project have experienced construction activities from other projects over a number of years. Cumulative impacts can increase the vulnerability of people in those communities. Consideration should be given to providing additional mitigation measures where communities have recently been impacted by other construction activities.

Should you require any further information please contact Kishen Lachireddy, Manager, Surveillance and Risk Unit, Health Protection NSW on 9424 5999.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'STH', with a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Thackway  
**A/ Deputy Secretary**  
**Population and Public Health**