

2nd November 2015

The Secretary
DP&E Project No. SSI 6307
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**WestConnex Project:
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for M4 East Tunnel Project**

I make the following submission in relation to the above EIS.

While I appreciate that living in a vibrant city such as Sydney will inevitably lead to progress impeding on the quiet enjoyment of property and individual freedoms, I feel the overall process is seriously flawed and a travesty of democracy and a lack of transparent planning.

I strongly object in particular, to the following matters:

1. I object to the lack of mitigation (noise/traffic/dust/pollution) issues during the construction phase not using best practice (more detail below) and
2. I object to the exclusion of filtering from the ventilation stacks (more detail below). The stacks should be filtered using the latest technology in accordance with international best practice.

I request a formal reply to my concerns and objections (response details at the end of this letter).

In terms of my objections above I more predominantly **strongly** object to:

A. OBJECTION TO LACK OF CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION

Details:

1. In March 2016 Northcote Street will be blocked for three years at the Parramatta Road end with a construction depot being built.
2. Because of the lack of access to Parramatta Road there needs to be modifications at the other end of our street to assist the flow on Ramsey Street which is currently a very busy road and will only increase due to more congestion. I am thoroughly disgusted that the EIS is silent on and does not address any modifications whatsoever, not even a simple "keep clear" zone.
3. Further there is no mention of addressing any "rat run" issues associated with such a closure and construction of the depot.

4. The EIS is also silent on the matter of parking in our street. It is axiomatic that there will be an issue with construction workers parking on Northcote Street. As the tunneling will be operating 24 hours a day this means that residents will find it increasingly difficult to park in our street any hour of the day (currently a calm residential family street). If this is allowed to happen there will also be noise issues associated with shift workers coming and going. Our street needs to be “residential parking only”.
5. Further to point 4, the EIS states that noise and vibration impacts caused by the construction operation period being 24 hours a day will “cause stress and anxiety, affect the enjoyment of outdoor spaces and disturb normal indoor activities [and] sleep patterns with consequent impacts on health and wellbeing”. I find this intolerable. You must address these issues not just “state” them, consequently I most strongly object to the construction depot being at the end of our street.

B. VENTILATION STACKS

Details:

1. Currently the proposal is for Ventilation Stacks to be located at the intersection of Wattle Street and Parramatta Road.
2. Given the built up nature of a modern city it is obvious that any location of this type of structure will impact society, however in this case I am appalled that there will be NO FILTRATION.
3. In this case the stack is located near:
 - (a) A Public School
 - (b) Various child care centres
 - (c) Various medical centres
 - (d) Retirement Villages and
 - (e) Local residences
4. By not filtering these stacks the government is saying “*the dollar is more important than people’s lives*”. The cost of this filtration should not be an issue and I totally reject it as an “excuse” or “reason”.
5. Pollution in local areas near portals has found to be worse. Traffic pollution has been linked to:
 - (a) Higher rates of heart disease (a condition that I happen to have)
 - (b) Lung cancer and
 - (c) Impaired lung development in children

The location of this stack so close to the various sections of the community (listed in 3 above) obviously makes this issue (to my mind) the most important issue of the whole construction and the filtration of the stack MUST BE A PRIORITY.
6. International Ventilation Systems use filtering to a staggering positive effect and I find it unbelievable that Australia, a first world country and in this century cannot use international best practice. To accept anything less is a travesty.

I feel that my concerns are totally justified and must be considered.

Each one of my points above must be addressed before any construction is even considered, and I require you to respond to my concerns and objections in a positive and constructive manner.

All communication can be sent to either:

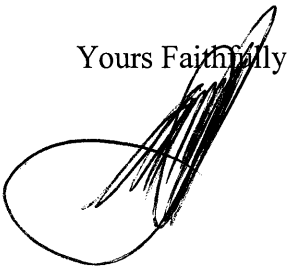
Address:

Mr Gary Fifer
19 Northcote St
HABERFIELD 2045

Email: gfifer@izontax.com.au

Phone: 61 02 97980894 or 0418974054

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary E. Fifer', written over the typed name.

GARY E.FIFER

Political Donation Declaration:

As per the requirements of the legislation I **HAVE NOT** made any donations exceeding \$1,000.00 in the requisite period.