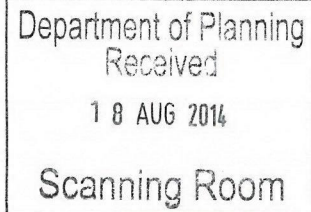


PCU55107

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16 August 2014

Att: Director – Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
Application No. – SS1 13_6136
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir

We live in Woonona Avenue, Wahroonga, across the road from the proposed unfiltered ventilation stack at the NorthConnex northern portal of the proposed M2 to M1 tunnel. We have lived here for the past 20 years, and bought in Wahroonga because of the leafy suburb, and because here we are handy to the station and shops.

The proposal to build the ventilation stack in the middle of houses is incomprehensible, and when we bought the house, there was no mention of the possibility of having this monstrosity in our neighbourhood!

As there is bushland and an industrial area further up the M1 towards Asquith, surely it would be more practical to extend the tunnel and build the stack there where it has less impact on the residents of the area!

There are over 9000 school students in the surrounding area of this proposed stack, as well as elderly residents and a hospital!

We went to the Air Quality Forum and were not impressed with the speakers' versions of how safe the air will be when it is dispersed over the area around the stack. As we live within 50 metres of this proposed stack, we will be right in the firing line of this pollution – 24 hours a day!! – as well as our neighbours.

At the forum, one of the audience (an architect) put forward the 'Equilibria Proposal', which referred to the height above sea level of the proposed tunnel at 140 m at the M2, and the northern portal would be at 175 m, making the tunnel having to rise 35 m, whereas it could proceed a further 2 km and exit at the same 140 m level. This would then keep the tunnel at the same elevation all the way through, avoiding any climb for the vehicles, and it would position the portal in the bush, away from homes.

Various articles are currently referring to the pollution from these ventilation stacks, and I quote from one in the Hornsby Advocate – "As far back as 2005, WHO stated in a review on the effect of diesel particulate matter on children's brain development that 'there is no evidence of a safe level of exposure or a threshold below which no health effects occur'".

Also, in 2011, according to the Public Health England, "in 15 London boroughs there was an increase in deaths from particulate-matter air pollution. Ironically, diesel has been promoted as 'green' because it is more fuel efficient and emits less carbon dioxide. However, 91% of particulate-matter air pollution in that area comes from diesel vehicles." As you propose that 5000 trucks will use the tunnel daily, it is very frightening to have this emission coming out of the stack right in the middle of houses!!

Not only is it unacceptable to have this monstrosity amongst peoples' homes, it looks like a container terminal in the artist's impression! How anyone can think this could be an improvement on what is here now, is unimaginable.

How can the government for whom we voted, trusting that they would make the right, fair and sensible decisions on our behalf, let us down so drastically, by condoning this appalling, polluting construction in the middle of our homes?

Admittedly, we bought this house knowing the F3 was across the road and having to put up with the noise of the traffic, but over the past 20 years the noise and build-up of trucks and cars has been enormous. We hear the traffic 24 hours a day, and welcomed the prospect of a tunnel to remove that traffic off Pennant Hills Road and therefore the F3 (now the M1). We did NOT expect, in our naivety, to be lumbered with the ventilation stack amongst our homes!! We immediately thought, when first the tunnel was mentioned to the public last year, that the portal would be up in the bush, away from us all. The noise from the traffic will not be diminished, as the traffic will be exiting the tunnel across the road from us, and the southern portal is further towards the Pacific Highway - therefore we will still hear all the trucks and cars on the M1. At least Pennant Hills Road will be an improvement, which is a long time coming - getting those endless trucks off the road!!

As you are considering the residents on Pennant Hills Road re the congestion, noise and pollution, shouldn't you also be considering the residents immediately in the vicinity of the condensed pollution falling on their houses day in, day out?

At the Air Quality Forum our intelligence was seriously insulted, in that we were led to believe that the air at ground level would be no more polluted than it is now, and that our house would be more polluted by my vacuuming the floors! I do not vacuum my floors for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!!!

We trust you will take our submission into consideration and suggest to NorthConnex that they extend the tunnel a further two kilometres and have the ventilation stack in the bush and not near our homes, schools, hospital and aged-care facilities which abound in the area around the proposed northern portal.

Yours sincerely



R H and B M Kerrigan