

EIS SUBMISSION - NORTHCONNEX PROJECT

Project	NorthConnex
Application Number	SSI 13_6136
Date	Xx July 2014

- **I wish to remain anonymous in lodging this submission due to the sensitive nature of the information and upset it may cause our family.**

BACKGROUND

My wife and I are the property owners of a house on Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills, NSW that will share a property boundary with the proposed Wilson Road Tunnel Support Facility.

The NorthConnex project proposes to build an Emergency Tunnel Support Facility, known as the Wilson Road Compound, on the corner of Wilson Road and Pennant Hills Road. If the project is approved construction would commence in 2015 and continue for four years until the tunnel is opened in 2019.

Our home was not identified as a property directly impacted by NorthConnex and was not acquired by Roads and Maritime.

I have requested Roads and Maritime to acquire my property but I have not received any reply regarding a decision about my request.

ISSUE

My wife has complex and ongoing medical conditions and her Doctor, a renal specialist, has provided a letter to advise that living next to a construction site while NorthConnex is being built would present a risk to her health. Also she is under lot of stress due to this issue and this uncertainty increases her hypertension which can increase her health risks.

She had a kidney transplant in 1998 for the treatment of end-stage kidney disease and has the following conditions:

- Requires multiple anti-hypertensive medications to maintain the function of the kidney transplant. Hypertension is a risk factor that can impact negatively on kidney function and can result from stress.
- Has thyroid cancer and is taking medication.
- Must take immunosuppression medication for the kidney transplant.
- Is immunocompromised and has a high risk of infection and cancer.
- hypertension

Due to medical conditions she does not work and spends most hours during the day and night at her home, which increases her risk of exposure to potential contaminants from construction of NorthConnex at the Wilson Road Compound.

Following is the anticipated construction timeline and activities from the NorthConnex Environmental Impact Statement for the Wilson Road facility and potential environmental and health risks that my wife may face:

Activity	Construction hours	Construction timeframe	Potential health risk
Demolition of neighbouring residential properties to establish the construction compound site	Standard hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon - Fri 0700h – 1800h Sat 0800h – 1300h Not Sunday or public holidays	3 months, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos Dust Noise Vibration Fungal spores from tree removal Heavy vehicle movements.
Building construction compound infrastructure, including acoustic shed, water treatment plant, generator, power substation, office facilities, car park and entranced and exit for heavy vehicles. Drilling an 80m shaft for lowering road headers and spoil removal.	Standard hours	9 months, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust Noise Vibration Heavy vehicle movements to remove spoil/material
Tunnelling commences and will be carried out 24/7. Heavy vehicles will enter and exit the Wilson Road compound from Pennant Hills Road – indicative drawings show entrance and exit to be the same and closest to 440 Pennant Hills Road	24 hours/day 7 days/week	2 ½ years, 2015 - 2018	1200 heavy vehicle movements per day on and off Pennant Hills Road 24/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise, dust, vibration
Construction commences to build permanent Emergency Smoke Extraction Facility infrastructure. This will include a power substation, car park, landscaping, and a 15 meter ventilation facility.	Standard hours	1 ¼ years, 2016 - 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust Noise Vibration Heavy vehicle movements
Site demobilisation – of temporary structures including removing temporary structures, landscaping and site rehabilitation	Standard hours	6 months, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust Noise Vibration Fungus from vegetation
Operation of Emergency Smoke Extraction Facility commences. This is an unstaffed facility. Only used in unlikely event of emergency to extract smoke caused by vehicle fire in tunnel. May be used to draw fresh air into the tunnel in low traffic conditions	Only during an emergency fire event. Testing of jet fans and ventilation facility approximately four times annually.		Potential exposure to smoke in the case of a fire. Potential exposure to emissions during ventilation outlet testing. Negligible operational noise or vibration of jet fans or ventilation facility.

A kidney transplant does not last forever with most only lasting 15 years. Any exposure to environmental contaminants from this time forward could be critical.

Preventing infection is the most effective approach for renal transplant patients, which includes reducing exposure to pathogens and other risk factors such as dust, noise, vibration, fungus and viruses.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

I have requested Roads and Maritime to acquire my property, but if this did not happen and we had to remain in our home for the duration of the NorthConnex project it would be essential to conduct environmental monitoring to evaluate potential health risks for my wife.

I have sought a quotation from Australian Safer Environment & Technology Pty Ltd (ASET) for environmental monitoring at our home on Pennant Hills Road before and during construction at the Wilson Road site. The quotation includes monitoring for dust, chemical fumes, and noxious gas monitoring, noise and vibration measurements.

- The total daily rate quoted for all environmental monitoring is \$2350.
- Over the four year construction period this would equal $\$2350 \times (365 \times 4) = \textbf{\$3,431,000}$.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minister for Planning considers the health risks to my wife associated with NorthConnex construction for four years next door to our house and supports Roads and Maritime to acquire our property or pay for environmental monitoring in the worst case scenario where we have to continue living here.