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Director Infrastructure Projects  
Department of Planning and Environment

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Director

**Application Number – SSI 13 6136 Major Projects Assessment NorthConnex EIS**

I have lived adjacent to the M1 in Coonanbarra Road Wahroonga since it opened in 1989. I am concerned about the impact of Transurban's proposed tunnel linking the M1 and M2 on Wahroonga residents and the ambience of the suburb and am writing to urge you to consider the alternative Equilibria Proposal for an extension of this tunnel.

Equilibria proposes extending the tunnel to approximately 2km north of the Pacific Highway, which would be approximately 1km longer than the current tunnel length proposed by the Transurban/Lend Lease Bouygues Joint Venture, submitted to the NSW Government in March 2012.

An extension of the tunnel by 1km would have significant environmental benefits. The Equilibria Proposal would see the tunnel's pollution stack located in the industrial area in Hornsby, not immediate to Wahroonga residents. No Wahroonga resident would be forced out of their home. The Spring Gully Creek riparian zone, currently adjacent to the M1, would be protected, not destroyed. There would be no gradient in the tunnel, reducing pollution inside the tunnel and improving traffic flows.

The Equilibria Proposal would also result in economic benefits for the Federal Government, the State Government and Transurban and Lend Lease Bouygues. The tunnel extension would allow approximately 2km of redundant M1 to be rezoned to create a unique opportunity for sustainable urban development. The NSW Government would receive a capital return on the sale of the redundant M1 land, which would then provide for an additional 2000 dwellings for Sydney with close proximity to Wahroonga railway station. The extension would be cost effective due to economies of scale from existing construction setup.

I am confident that acceptance of Equilibria's alternative proposal would improve community acceptance of the M1-M2 tunnel due to less pollution and noise in the local area. I would be grateful if you would give the proposal serious consideration.

Yours sincerely

*Margaret Dobbin*

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