



PCU55339

23 August 2014

Director - Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
Number: SSI 13_6136
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

NorthConnex Application Number: SSI 13_6136

Please find below our submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for NorthConnex.

We **object** to the project as described in the EIS. We are concerned about:

1. Placement of the northern ventilation stack in the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where 9,300 school children will be exposed, as well as multiple aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes.
2. The placement of the northern ventilation stack in a valley in Wahroonga where there are often low wind speeds, which will result in poor dispersion and exposure to community to high levels of tunnel emission.
3. We are concerned that the justification for not providing filtration for the stacks is unconvincing.
4. We are concerned that a full and transparent options assessment process was not undertaken to assess alternative designs for the project. **There are alternatives for locating the stack and portals in non-residential areas**, such as the industrial Zones of Hornsby and Asquith.

To address our concerns we request that the following actions are undertaken:

1. The Department does not approve the project in its current form.
2. The air quality and human health impact assessment need to be revised to address the issues raised above.
3. An independent options assessment process should be undertaken to assess alternative locations for the ventilation stack and portals.
4. To enforce the provision of filtration.
5. A long term health study on children and residents in areas impacted by stack discharges be included as part of the conditions of approval.

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