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26<sup>th</sup> August 2014



Director – Infrastructure Projects,  
Department of Planning  
Number:SS1 13\_6136  
Major Projects Assessment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

NorthConnex Application Number: SS1 13\_6136

I object to the NorthConnex project as described in the EIS on both health and safety grounds.

As I understand it the northern ventilation stack is in the middle of a densely populated residential area. This area has a number of schools, aged care facilities and hospitals. 9,300 school children will be exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution. The stacks are not being built to world best practice in that they will have no capacity to filter pollutants from the emissions.

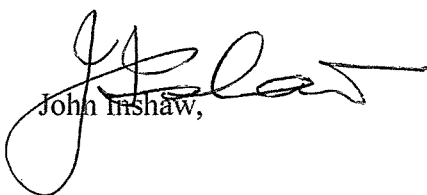
Research shows that the pollutants have serious health impacts increasing the risks of lung cancer, stroke, asthma, heart disease and other health problems. The pollutants also have a detrimental effect on pregnant women contributing to underweight babies and congenital heart defects.

I also have safety concerns regarding the tunnels. Should a mishap occur in the tunnels resulting in fire the likelihood of a catastrophic disaster is high. The project suggests that in the event of a fire evacuation will occur via a neighboring tunnel. Fire brigade professionals with whom I have spoken indicate that in the event of a fire in a tunnel, visibility is reduced to nil and people get disorientated. The fire emergency experience in the English Channel tunnel a few years ago demonstrated that evacuation via a neighbouring tunnel does not work. Many people were burnt to death and huge slabs of concrete fell from the roof as a result of the heat. The coroner indicated that long tunnels should have vertical evacuation exits to the surface. None of these exist in the NorthConnex Plan.

I request that the Department not approve the project in its current form.

I also request that the NorthConnex project be abandoned in favour of public transport alternatives whereby truck trailers can be transported on rail to get them off busy metropolitan roads and a proper integrated public transport system be put in place to encourage cars off the road.

Yours faithfully,

  
John Inshaw,

