

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.

Firstly we would like to state **we strongly object** to the project as described in the EIS.

We note our interest in the project is as follows: Our son is down to attend Knox Grammar (Preparatory and Senior School). We also intend to move into the area in the near future in order to be closer to the school.

We have a **high level of concern** regarding the following issues and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning. In regards to the NorthConnex tunnel, 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. We view this as a highly irresponsible move, particularly where young people are concerned.
2. We are highly concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest overwhelmingly that the impacts of air pollutants on health are very serious. These include increased risk of death from heart diseases, increased risks of lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased risk of asthma, and recent research suggesting a number of risks associated with pregnancy including low birth weight, congenital heart defects and autism.

These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans which cause the above health problems.

To address our concerns, we request that the following actions are undertaken as a matter of urgency:

1. Due to the significant health concerns posed by the current project design, we request the Department of Planning **unequivocally reject** the project in its current form.
2. We also request that alternative transport options to ease congestion on Pennant Hills Road be considered in preference to a tunnel, such as an orbital surface route.

Alternately, that NorthConnex commit to distributing the pollution over a much larger surface area by installing a minimum of six stacks, **evenly** spread across the route, in place of the current proposal for only two, such that the concentration of pollution in the Wahroonga area be reduced to a negligible amount.