

5 September 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 my submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for NorthConnex.

Firstly I would like to state that I object to the project as described in the EIS.

I 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,

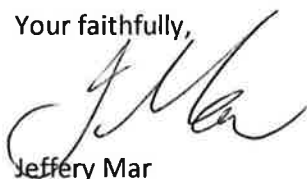
I am concerned about:

1. Placement of the northern ventilation stack in the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where over 9,300 school children will be exposed, as well as multiple aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes. Please note that children in some of the schools do not live in the local area. They may come from areas such as the Northern Beaches, the Hills district, country NSW and overseas. So this issue of the location of the ventilation shaft does not just effect the residents of Hornsby and Wahroonga.
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. I am highly concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious. These include increased death from heart disease, increased risks of lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased asthma, and recent research suggesting low birth weight for pregnant women, increased autism, and congenital heart defects. These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans which cause the above health problems. [REDACTED] the increase in air pollution in the Wahroonga area is of serious concern for me if the northern stack remains in the current location. I am about 500 meters from the proposed northern stack and given that I live on the eastern side of the M1, the predominantly westerly winds will no doubt increase the level of pollutants where I am living.
4. I am concerned about the project including future provisions for portal emissions in densely populated areas, which will result in emissions remaining at ground level, and hence exposing the local population to pollutants. I am also concerned that NorthConnex's claim that there will no portal emissions from current proposal cannot be verified.
5. I am concerned that a full and transparent options assessment process was not undertaken to assess alternative designs for the project. Unlike other tunnel projects in Sydney there are alternatives for locating the stack and portals in non-residential areas.
6. I am concerned that the justification for not providing filtration for the stacks is cursory and unconvincing.

To address my concerns I request that the following actions are undertaken:

1. Due to the significant health concerns of the current project design, I request that the department of planning does not approve the project in it's current form.
2. An analysis be undertaken to move the northern stack to a less densely populated residential area i.e in the light industrial area of Hornsby or even further north. The location of the ventilation shafts for the Lane Cove Tunnel should be used as an precedent.
3. A continueing and comprehensive air quality monitoring program be developed and implemented where the ventilation shafts (north and south) are located.
6. An independent review of the ventilation system is undertaken to ensure that NorthConnex's claim of no portal emissions is justified.
7. Portal emissions from NorthConnex ventilation shafts be filtered to reduce air pollution and in particular the fine particle matter that will dramatically affect our health.
8. The Department does not approve the project in its current form as it clearly does not meet the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Your faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mar', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffery Mar
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