



華澳浸信會展信堂

CHINESE & AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST CHURCH – Thornleigh

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Mandarin Ministry  
Worker  
Ms Annie Chen  
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10<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### **Submission to NorthConnex project**

#### **Specifically Trelawney Street support facility**

On behalf of our church members and visitors, we put forward this submission as we have significant concerns with the proposed use of Loch Maree Avenue for heavy vehicle movements to and from the Trelawney Street support facility.

Our church premises are located on the corner of Pennant Hills Road and Loch Maree Avenue and used for regular activities and public events seven days a week. These include *playgroups for parents and their children aged 0-5 on Wednesday and Friday mornings, Thursday morning meetings for about 60 elderlies and women as well as numerous group meetings and events on Saturdays from morning till evening.*

Although we have sufficient parking facilities on-site for the above activities and events, we wish to alert you that *we have over 100 participants of youth activities on Friday evenings 7:00pm-11:00pm as well as a total of 500+ (including elderlies and young children) attending five Services and related activities on Sundays between 8:00am and 9:00pm. Many of them require parking on nearby streets or access to public transport by foot.*

## YOUR PROPOSED TRAFFIC

While the proposed standard construction hours *exclude* week nights after 6pm, Saturdays after 1pm and all Sundays and public holidays, we noted that they will be “*up to 24 hours a day and seven days a week during peak construction periods of tunnelling*”<sup>1</sup> for the proposed 33 months (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in 2016 to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019), and that “*1,140 heavy vehicles and 200 light ones will turn into Loch Maree from Pennant Hills Road*”<sup>2</sup>. This translates into roughly one construction vehicle movement per minute up or down Loch Maree Avenue.

## OUR CONCERNS

### *Safety & congestion*

From your current diagram<sup>3</sup>, the proposed inbound heavy vehicle route (denoted in yellow) coming from the north and the south *both* turn into Loch Maree Ave. For the size and length of these heavy vehicles, their drivers not only need to make the turn on the outer lanes of Pennant Hills Road, they will also need to negotiate downslope into a much narrower 2-lane Loch Maree Ave to turn left into the support facility. ***Frequent congestions and/or collisions caused by these heavy vehicles will be very likely.***

One suggested alternative to reduce the concentration of construction vehicles using Loch

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<sup>1</sup> Fact Sheet – p.4, Trelawney Street tunnel support facility, July 2014 (RMS 14.299)

<sup>2</sup> - Ditto -

<sup>3</sup> Fact Sheet – p.1, Trelawney Street tunnel support facility, July 2014 (RMS 14.299)

Maree Ave will be for **the southbound heavy vehicles to instead turn left into Trelawney Street and then right into the support facility site.**

Given the undesirable confusion caused by the frequent traffic gridlock, *safety to our participants especially our young children, youths and elderlies may be jeopardized* when many need to walk across both Loch Maree Ave and Pennant Hills Road at the traffic lights to/from the train stations, bus stops and street parking off-site.

*Drivers entering/exiting our church car park on Loch Maree Ave will also be endangered among the constant stream of heavy vehicles.* In addition, it will be difficult for cars to turn left into Loch Maree Ave from Pennant Hills Road and right from Loch Maree Ave into Pennant Hills Road due to the expected frequency of trucks making these turns as well.

We would therefore **seek your traffic control management plan and ask that your management team works closely with ours** in order to alleviate the foreseeable danger, traffic jam and street parking problems caused to our members and the public.

### ***Noise & air pollution***

The proposed amount of heavy traffic especially during the 33-month tunnelling work that concentrates on the corner of Pennant Hills Road and Loch Maree Ave will *generate endless and loud engine noise that will in turn render all activities in our premises (meeting rooms, halls and courtyard) impossible.* We therefore **request your temporary installation of effective sound-proofing barriers around our church boundary on the**

**affected corner.**

Furthermore, the large amount of dust and fume emitted daily from these extra 1,340 construction vehicles that travel only 1-2 metres away from our premises will *adversely impact on the health of our young children and elderlies as well as those who have existing respiratory illnesses*. We **seek input on how this concern can be addressed by your air quality experts.**

In order that the wider community may enjoy an improved infrastructure for the future, we accept that a certain level of inconvenience to us is inevitable. The concerns we raised here however, if left unaddressed, will have adverse or irreversible consequences not only to the health and safety of our members and the public but also to the viability of our church operations.

We therefore look forward to cooperating with you so that the project may go ahead with proper management and/or mitigation of these foreseeable problems.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pak-San Tam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Pak-San Tam,

Church Secretary (acting)