

7 September 2014

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

ELECTRONICALLY LODGED

RE: NORTH CONNEX APPLICATION NUMBER SSI 136136

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

I object to the project as described in the EIS.

I have considerable concerns about several major and serious issues and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning.

I am concerned about:

1. The placement of the northern ventilation stack in the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where nearly 10,000 school children will be exposed, as well as multiple aged care facilities, hospitals including Hornsby Hospital), child care facilities, homes and businesses.
2. The exposure of the population to pollution and resulting health care problems experienced by the poor planning and implementation of the M5East will be replicated, and indeed magnified, both by the placement of this stack and the considerable length of the proposed tunnel with its resulting increased emissions.
3. I am very concerned about the lack of accurate modelling of local weather pattern and conditions as well as the lack of accurate assessment of the local topography. Modelling based, for example, on Terrey Hills and Sydney Airport is unacceptable.
4. I am highly concerned that multiple large scale research studies (both Australian and international) conclude that the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious. These health effects range from increased death from cardiovascular disease, increased risk of lung cancer and stroke, poor lung growth in children exposed to air pollutants, increased asthma, low birth weight for children of pregnant women, increased autism and congenital heart defects. These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans and cause these health problems.

I request that the following actions are taken:

1. The Department and Minister DO NOT approve the project in its current form
2. Alternative transport options be considered to relieve congestion along Pennant Hills Road
3. Alternative locations are identified for the stacks so that they are not built in densely populated and vulnerable areas
4. A rigorous and realistic assessment of traffic use in the proposed tunnel is undertaken
5. Alternative methods of managing tunnel emissions are thoroughly considered, and
6. That public and community concerns are seriously considered
7. That my personal details and identifying information is removed from any documents, information or communications.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]