

Director – Infrastructure Project
 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 we 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 9,300 school children will be exposed, as well as multiple aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes
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 increase 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 woman, increased autism, and congenital heart defects. These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans which cause the above health problems
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 be no portal emissions from the current proposal cannot be verified.
5. I am concerned about the large amount of diesel emissions which will be emitted from the NorthConnex tunnel, as is being designed for heavy freight to bypass Pennant Hills Road. Diesel emissions have been classified as carcinogenic by the World Health Organisation, and also contain a large number of fine particles which penetrate deep into lung tissue and remain there causing inflammation.
6. I am concerned about the air quality within the tunnel which is shown in the EIS to have exceedances above standards for pollutants such as NO₂, and haze from particulate matter at the ends of the tunnel.
7. I am concerned about the multiple flaws in the air quality modelling of the northern stack in the EIS. These include:
 - a) Extrapolation of meteorological data from other weather stations which do not reflect the local meteorology, local topography, and the valley location.
 - b) The use of a coarse topography model.
 - c) The failure to consider polluted intake air from the Pennant Hill/M2 interchange as part of the project contribution to air quality at Wahroonga