

**Submission regarding the EIS for NorthConnex
Ref NorthConnex Application number SSI13_6136.**

09 September 2014

Director – Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
Number SSI13_6136
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Subject : NorthConnex Application

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

I object to the project in its current form.

My concerns relate to the following

Notwithstanding the potential net environmental benefits of the tunnel project, all of the exhaust from the north bound tunnel is discharged in one location in close proximity to numerous schools, homes, aged care facilities, hospitals and businesses.

The number of multiple large scale research studies which suggest the impacts of exposure to air pollutants is serious, affecting especially lung and heart function and development.

There is no data on the micro climate at the tunnel exits and therefore the air quality modeling is speculative, and informal information suggests that the modeling is optimistic.

Comparisons of tunnel exhaust with background air quality based on open fires and off road vehicles etc are spurious and misleading as those influences are transient, seasonal and decreasing

The track record on tunnel air quality management is poor and not grounds for assurance

This will be the longest tunnel built to date and so there is no direct specific experience.

I request the following actions be taken

That there be due and proper resolution of the expressions of concern by medical practitioners and associations as their comments are expert, independent and in the interests of the community.

That the design of the ventilation and pollution control measures be conservative, independently audited, and based on accurate and relevant data specific to the location.

That all design and air quality assessments take into account the known and suspected potential affects of all gases, vapours and particulates, including micro fine particles

That in particular, the exhaust be filtered and that procedures and penalties be applied to the tunnel management to ensure that the filtering equipment remains in service, fully functional and effective

That the early stages of the project are not allowed to proceed in a manner that obviates options as to the number, locations and general configuration of the exhausts until all issues are fully and satisfactorily resolved

That extensive air quality monitoring continue throughout the life of the tunnel, the results publicly available on a website, and include hourly, daily and weekly averages. Locations for monitoring should include, but not be limited to, all schools, hospitals and in community areas within the expected area of influence of the exhaust discharge.

That there be contingency plans prepared and adequate funds held as a guarantee, to rectify any problems arising out of the design and/or operational faults.

That the government not enter into any contractual arrangement regarding the tunnel, which in any way limits the viability or progress of the proposed future orbital route.

Yours faithfully

Wahroonga Resident