

9th Sept. 2014

Attention: Assessing Officer
Dept. of Planning and Environment
Application number - SSI 13_6136
Major Projects Assessment

I have always held the view that the NorthConnex is an inappropriate project with little long term benefits. Extension of the M7 with a second crossing of the Hawkesbury should be the preferred option for easing the congestion on Pennant Hills Rd and the M1.

As it now appears certain that the NorthConnex project will be given the green light, I decided to concentrate my comments on Vol 3 of the EIS.

A lot of effort has gone into Vol 3 to sell the great benefit the tunnel will provide in reducing air pollution along the Pennant Hills Rd corridor. My concern is that this benefit is offset by the exposure of people to a new source of pollution namely the North & South exhaust stacks. The Hornsby area will be the worst hit due to the upward slope of the tunnel and the frequent congestion along the M1 going north. The so called fresh air entering the tunnel is actually the "normal" polluted Sydney air. (the EIS does not appear to consider that the South Exhaust is also in the intake air location). From the entrance of the tunnel for the next 9 KM all the accumulated pollution is pushed along and every bit of it goes up the North Exhaust.

It will be compulsory for trucks to use the tunnel. Diesel emissions are a major health issue and PM1 is a critical component of diesel emissions. For various reasons PM1 was not modelled by the EIS. Filtering was discussed and rejected as an option. The EIS expended a lot of effort in analysing existing pollution levels. People living in the stack effected areas are understandably not impressed by what goes on in Lindfield and Prospect. To me it seems unconscionable that no detailed background monitoring was carried out at some of the critical spots within the exhaust plume's drop zone.

The EIS does not detail how post tunnel opening monitoring will be carried out. That includes location of the monitors and the length of time that monitoring will be maintained. As further information becomes available PM1 must be part of this monitoring. A big concern also is there is no indication that provision will be made to add filtering should it prove to be necessary.

In my opinion not enough duty of care has been exercised by this EIS for the people living in the stack effected areas.


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