

9 September, 2014

Director – Infrastructure Projects  
 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 our submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for NorthConnex.

We would like to state we **object** to the project as described in the EIS.

We are strongly concerned about the current proposed NorthConnex plan to construct the **Trelawney Street Facility** metres away from the densely populated residential area (including many surrounding homes of families with young children) and sincerely hope that the following issues be closely examined and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning as determining factors on the construction of the Trelawney Street Facility, its proposed location very close to a densely populated residential neighbourhood and NorthConnex trucks and employees using local neighbourhood streets to build the Trelawney Street Facility.

In regards to the construction of the NorthConnex Tunnel and in particular the construction at the **Trelawney Street Facility**, we are concerned about the the following:

1. Metres away from our local family neighbourhood homes on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street, Loch Maree Avenue, the construction of the proposed Trelawney Street Facility will remove 400,000 tonnes of soil including dust and pollutants during the construction of the Tunnel plus the enormous noise pollution from the construction of the Facility. The construction of the Facility will have major negative impact on our local neighbourhood roads and street traffic congestion, safety of our children walking and being transported to and from our local schools, our commute to and from our workplace, the poor air quality from the construction and dangerous impact on our children's health and noise pollution from the close proximity to the Trelawney Street Facility, safety for children playing in the backyards and neighbourhood and no longer quiet neighbourhood streets.

We are very concerned that the construction of the Trelawney Street Facility will greatly increase traffic on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue. This has a very negative impact on our local neighbourhood, noise, traffic and air pollution and threatens the safety of driving in and out of our residential driveways especially for those residential properties located close to a bend or if your driveway is blinded by trees and bushes which can lead to dangerous and fatal road or pedestrian accidents if there are trucks and other Trelawney Street Facility vehicles speeding or using these three local neighbourhood streets.

On the corner of Nelson Street, Trelawney Avenue and Greenhill Avenue, there is a bus stop that is utilised every day by dozens of families and school children that service Sydney Adventist Hospital, Thornleigh West Public School, Turramurra High and other surrounding schools. The increased traffic from the construction of the Trelawney Street Facility will make walking to and from this bus stop more dangerous for children and their families especially if NorthConnex trucks are allowed to use or park on these local streets. The construction of the Trelawney Street Facility will dramatically add to the already existing traffic congestion and increase the commute to school as they will be using the Loch Maree Avenue onto Pennant Hills Road as their route to school(s). Residents, children and families walk and use the local parks and recreational areas and the construction of the Trelawney Street Facility will raise further safety issues and increased traffic congestion in the immediate local neighbourhood.

We object to the proposed location of the Trelawney Street Facility and we recommend that another more suitable location for a Facility be more carefully planned and placed in a non residential location that will not have such major health and air quality impacts and much less traffic and noise pollution for its local neighbourhoods and communities. We recommend the proposed Trelawney Street Facility location be changed to a non residential area location.

**2.** In the proposed plan, trucks will enter the Trelawney Street Facility via Loch Maree Avenue and exit directly onto Pennant Hills Road. In the proposal, trucks will enter via local street into the Facility and leave the Facility at just over 1 truck per minute. Trucks from the south will have to turn right into Loch Maree Avenue. The lights at Loch Maree Avenue are timed to give a 20 second turn off Pennant Hills road every full sequence which is around 2 minutes to 2.5 minutes. Given the amount and size of the trucks including those carrying trailers turning right into Loch Maree Avenue, the proposed schedule of one truck per minute arriving and leaving the Trelawney Street Facility is both unrealistic and not achievable.

Moreover, Loch Maree Avenue is a very important local route from our residential home to Pennant Hills Road. The entry and exit of Loch Maree Avenue, Trelawney Street and Nelson Street are local streets used by local residents and for community safety these three streets should only be used for local residents and not for trucks constructing a major tunnel.

We have some major concerns that NorthConnex trucks, NorthConnex employees or any other related employees will be allowed to park adjacent to properties in Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue. We are strongly opposed to allowing parking of NorthConnex vehicles or private vehicles in these streets and surrounding neighbourhood streets as this is very dangerous for residents entering and exiting their residential driveways, will increase traffic and noise pollution, increase air pollution from trucks and other vehicles and generally increase traffic congestion on what should be a quiet residential street(s). Furthermore, allowing Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue as walking commuter routes to the Trelawney Street Facility will increase safety and noise issues for local densely populated local residential areas.

We recommend that ALL trucks, NorthConnex, government or NorthConnex-related employees are banned from using, parking or walking as route on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue as these are local neighbourhood streets and make a huge negative environmental, noise and traffic pollution to our families, our homes and our very important local neighbourhood safety.

We recommend ALL parking spaces at the Trelawney Street Facility are removed including ALL parking on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue. ALL NorthConnex, government or NorthConnex-related employees enter and exit on foot or via vehicle the Trelawney Street facility via Pennant Hills Road only. We recommend Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue is banned for any NorthConnex vehicle parking.

We recommend that the proposed entry and exit strategy for the Trelawney Street Facility be changed so that ALL trucks using the Trelawney Street Facility both enter from and exit onto Pennant Hills Road. If the Trelawney Street Facility does not have the capacity for all its trucks to enter from and exit onto Pennant Hills Road then the current proposed Trelawney Street Facility location is not the correct location and further time and investigation should be made into a site and location that can accommodate this method and without entering into any local neighbourhood roads or using neighbourhood streets as a parking depot or location.

We recommend for alternative transport options to ease congestion on Pennant Hills Road be considered such as an orbital surface route.

**3.** The proposed construction of the Trelawney Street Facility and the operation of the NorthConnex Tunnel once completed will have a major environmental and noise pollution impact on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Street. These three local neighbourhood streets have homes with very large Sydney blue gum trees (some of these blue gums are protected and have a historical connection to the original indigenous communities). The construction and use of the current proposed route of the Tunnel will have unsafe environmental impacts including the possibility of falling Sydney blue gum trees onto residential homes and surrounding properties.

We recommend for each residential home located on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue have the option and access to a detailed survey report on their residential property in relation to the impact from the construction of and completion of the NorthConnex Tunnel, especially relating to the Trelawney Street Facility before any proposed work on the Tunnel begins.

We recommend that each residential home on Nelson Street, Trelawney Street and Loch Maree Avenue with any large Sydney blue gum trees located on their property have access and the option to be compensated for the removal of the Sydney blue gum tree that may fall its home or surrounding residential properties

4. We are also strongly concerned about the current proposed NorthConnex plan in relation to the 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 and residential homes.

We are concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious. These include increased death from heart disease, increased risks of lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased asthma, and recent research suggesting low birth weight from pregnant women, increased autism and congenital heart defects. These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans which cause the above health problems.

We recommend the Department of Planning does not approve the project in its current form and strongly recommend that alternative transport options to ease congestion on Pennant Hills Road be considered such as an orbital surface route.

**We would like our names and address withheld from the public and for this information not to be included in any public records and reports, on public websites or similar.**