

Chris McGillick

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 July 2014 8:38 AM  
**To:** Michael Young  
**Subject:** Northconnex EIS

**Subject: NorthConnex – Objection to preferred option and extension of EIS exhibition period**

I am writing in regard to the NorthConnex project.

Firstly I would like to clearly state I support the concept of the NorthConnex project – however I object to current preferred option to locate the northern ventilation stack and portals in a densely populated residential area and in a location with over 12 schools and 9300 school children in close proximity to the stack.

Secondly I am writing to request an extension of the EIS exhibition period to 90 days. The reasons I am requesting this are:

- 1) NorthConnex will be the largest road tunnel in Australia – three times the size of the Lane Cove Tunnel – and therefore the EIS will be a complex and large document.
- 2) Many in the community such as schools, business and individual residences are still unaware about the project, let alone the location the portals and ventilation stack in Wahroonga. Sufficient time is required for the community to be fully informed about the project and respond to the EIS. School P&Cs for example only meet monthly and for them to have the opportunity to assess the EIS and to prepare a response will take 90 days.
- 3) NorthConnex has been designated as critical infrastructure under NSW planning legislation. Consequently the community will have no recourse to legal appeals after the planning approval process. Therefore it is essential that adequate time is provided to the community to review and provide submissions of the EIS.
- 4) The location of the north portals and ventilation stack is significantly different than areas identified in the consultation pre-announcement of the preferred option and in the original State Significant Infrastructure Application Report (See Figure 1.2 of the report)
- 5) The period from the announcement of the preferred option to display of the EIS will be less than two months, which is an incredibly short period in comparison to other major infrastructure projects.

- 6) NorthConnex is the first road project in NSW being delivered under the unsolicited bid process. There is a public interest test in having adequate community scrutiny of the first of these types of projects given that there are many likely to follow.

Based on the above issues, I request that exhibition period for the NorthConnex EIS be extended to 90 days.

Regards

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