

Response to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) of NorthConnect Northern interchange

I am a resident at 13 Kingsley Close Wahroonga. My response is primarily addressed towards the construction of the Northern Interchange that is being built behind my property. In general, I am opposed to the idea of a Northern Interchange at the planned location for the following reasons:

1. Pre-Project Work

Properties No 11 and 12 at Kingsley Close have been purchased by RMS. Right now, there is already increased activity around these two properties. I see workmen with either RMS or NorthConnex uniform and there has been additional vehicle movements and noise. Is this sanctioned? Why were residents like me not informed about this? I find this unacceptable.

2. Noise during Construction

I am not convinced that there will be sufficient measure undertaken to reduce the noise level to a sustainable level that is comparable to the DB level right now (prior to any construction work). Very little detail is available in the EIS as to how this will be achieved. There are measurements justifying what normal acceptable DB levels are but none of these can be proven to be sustainable. Specifically, Table 7-69 on page 414 of the EIS predicts a mean noise level of 72dB (A) at NCA04. This is a very high value and close to the management level of 75dB (A). What evidence can you provide that this is acceptable over a sustained period of time? Do you have medical reports or studies that state prolonged exposure to this level of noise will not be detrimental to the one's well-being? What noise treatment measures are you putting in place? How do I know that these proposed treatment methods are effective? Are they proven or just conjecture?

3. Pollution

The Northern Interchange construction compound will have a workshop, acoustic shed, car park, water treatment plant, substation, storage facilities and the tunnel shaft in its location. There will be 1440 vehicle movements per day throwing up enormous levels of pollutants into the air. There will be a lot of dust particles and these will be detrimental to asthma prone individuals. I will state here that my son has asthmatic tendencies and could be severely affected by this. I expect that NorthConnex will pay for all medical bills in the event that treatment is needed for him. Also, I would expect that NorthConnex be liable for other consequential charges, medical or otherwise that may be incurred due to the effects of increased pollution.

4. Vibration

a) During Construction of the Interchange

Trucks and heavy vehicles are expected during the construction of the Northern interchange. As the site is immediately bordering my property, I am doubtful as to the level of mitigation that can be achieved. Also, the site is designated for 24 by 7 operations. I think such prolonged exposure to vibration is untenable for any average person or household.

b) After Construction of the interchange

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The tunnel will run directly underneath my property. No information has been provided as to the depth of the tunnel directly where my property is. There also has not been any detail validating the safety measures and approval needed to proceed. Have soil tests been conducted? Will their results be shared? Will residents like me be informed off the risks? We do not need another M5 tunnel debacle.

5. Visual Barriers

There is no detail of the elevation plans of the Northern Interchange complex relative to my residence. As it stands, any construction work is a breach of privacy right now as the RMS land is higher and looks directly into my residence. It is in fact looking into my bathroom window. No visual barrier plans have been mentioned in the EIS.

6. Soil Movement

The additional activity at the work site of the Northern Interchange will induce soil movement beyond that normally experienced. How much study has been done to investigate the effects of this? We have not received any detailed report on this matter.

7. Privacy

Invasion of privacy as mentioned in point 5.

8. Valuation of Property

What guarantee does RMS or NorthConnex provide that my property will not suffer any devaluation over the time period of construction of the tunnel? This concern has been raised by residents in the Kingsley Close community. Will NorthConnex pay us devaluation compensation caused by the project or are we expected to be just **collateral damage**?

9. Financial Consideration

What other financial considerations have been considered with respect to the hardship that we will encounter over the next 5 years? Some of them include the non-exhaustive list below :

- a) Noise mitigation measures
- b) Medical treatment
- c) Devaluation of Property
- d) Damage to Property as a result of soil movement
- e) Damage caused by workmen moving in/out of the area
- f) Accidents caused by construction work