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11 September 2014
4 Annulla Place
Wahroonga
NSW 2076

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

I would like to inform you of my objection to the project as described in the EIS. I have a high level of concern regarding the following issues and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning.

My concerns are as follows:

The justification for not providing filtration for the stacks is cursory and unconvincing.

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, businesses and homes.

The placement of the northern ventilation stack in a valley in Wahroonga where there are often low wind speeds, which will result in poor dispersion and exposure to community to high levels of tunnel emission.

I am highly concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious.

I am concerned about the project including future provisions for portal emissions in densely populated areas, which will result in emissions remaining at ground level, and hence exposing the local population to pollutants.

I am concerned about the large amount of diesel emissions which will be emitted from the NorthConnex tunnel, as it is being designed for heavy freight to bypass Pennant Hills Rd. Diesel emissions have been classified as carcinogenic by the World Health Organisation, and also contain a larger number of fine particles which penetrate deep into lung tissue and remain there causing inflammation.

I am concerned that a full and transparent options assessment process was not undertaken to assess alternative designs for the project. Unlike other tunnel projects in Sydney there are alternatives for locating the stack and portals in non-residential areas.

I request that the following actions are undertaken:

The air quality and human health impact assessment need to be revised to address the issues raised above.

An independent options assessment be undertaken to assess alternative locations for the ventilation stack and portals.

To undertake a Life Cycle Analysis and assessment for the provision of filtration

An independent review of the ventilation system is undertaken to ensure that NorthConnex's claim of no portal emissions is justified.

The Submissions Report/Preferred Project be exhibited to allow the community to respond to the revised information contained in the report.

The Department does not approve the project in its current form as it clearly does not meet the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Yours Sincerely,

Michelle Salmon

