

September 11, 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 my submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for NorthConnex.

Firstly, I would like to state that **I object to the project** as stated 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. In regards to the NorthConnex tunnel, I am concerned about:

1. 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 homes.
2. 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.
3. I am highly concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans.
4. 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.
5. I am concerned about the air quality within the tunnel which is shown in the EIS to have exceedances above standards for pollutants such as NO₂, and haze from particulate matter at the ends of the tunnel.

6. 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.
7. I am concerned that the justification for not providing filtration for the stacks is cursory and unconvincing.

To address my concerns I request that the following actions are undertaken:

1. The air quality and human health impact assessment need to be revised to address the issues raised above.
2. To undertake a Life Cycle Analysis and assessment for the provision of filtration.
3. A long term health study on children and residents in areas impacted by stack discharges be included as part of the conditions of approval.
4. A comprehensive air quality monitoring program is developed and implemented.
5. The Submissions Report/Preferred Project be exhibited to allow the community to respond to the revised information contained in the report.
6. The Department does not approve the project in its current form.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]