

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

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

We 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. The placement of the northern ventilation stack is unwisely right the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes will be effected.
2. Low wind speeds will not help the dispersion of the pollution
3. 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 for pregnant women, increased autism, and congenital heart defects are just some of the health problems that may happen to residents around the area.
4. Diesel emissions have been classified as carcinogenic by the World Health Organization, and also contain a larger number of fine particles which penetrate deep into lung tissue and remain there causing inflammation, There will no doubt be a lot of diesel emissions from the NorthConnex Tunnel
5. I am concerned about the multiple flaws in the air quality modelling of the northern stack in the EIS. These include:
 - a) Extrapolation of meteorological data from other weather stations which do not reflect the local meteorology, local topography, and the valley location.
 - b) The use of a coarse topographical model
 - c) The failure to consider polluted intake air from the Pennant Hills/M2 interchange as part of the project contribution to air quality at Wahroonga
 - d) the background air quality being based on air quality at Lindfield and Prospect and the lack of any actual data on PM_{2.5}

NorthConnex EIS Submission

6. I/we are 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.

Although this tunnel is supposed to improve infrastructure, the points mentioned above address my perspective that the negatives of detrimental health effects for our community do not outweigh the positives for slight infrastructural improvement.

Yan Family

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