

## Environmental Impact Statement Submission M2 widening – Northconnex Integration Works

On behalf of my wife and myself I am writing to express our concerns regarding the Northconnex integration works to, once again, widen the M2 through North Rocks. This part of the M2 has only recently been widened, and now it's going to happen all over again. Will it ever end?

We have been living in our current home in [REDACTED], North Rocks for 30 years. When we bought our house we paid a premium price as, the M2 was to be located on the other side (West Pennant Hills side) of Darling Mills Forest. The location was changed and suddenly we became directly affected by the M2. It was forced upon us with complete disregard of how we (and other people in the same position) felt. Recently, the M2 was widened (bringing the carriageway closer to the homes in our street) and now it is to be widened again, bringing the carriageway even closer. It's been one blow after another, and we fear the value of our home has been continually undermined. We feel we have been constantly treated as "second-class citizens" who don't have the right to the quiet, leafy environment we purchased all those years ago.

Our concerns fall into two basic areas:

- **The environmental impact of the tunnel itself.** The Northconnex project will bring more traffic, especially very large, noisy, dirty trucks, along this stretch of the M2. The positioning of southern tunnel outlet will increase air pollution in our area, rather than spreading it along the course of the tunnel.
- **The environmental impact of integration works along the North Rocks section of the M2.** Concerns specific to us, and other residents of North Rocks, who are affected by the M2 integration works (i.e. increased noise and declining visual aesthetic) have not been adequately addressed. This is evidenced by the "Team" admitting that that it hadn't taken into account that people living along the proposed integration works would be concerned about this aspect of the project - supporting the point previously stated that the people living along this part of the M2 have consistently been treated poorly and what they think has never really been seriously considered.

Because of prior experience, we know that no amount of protest will stop this project from progressing. As the project will go ahead regardless, we do, however, hope the following requests will be addressed:

- This time, widen the M2 on the northern side of the carriageway.
- Ensure the best noise-damping surface is applied to the road surface when completed.
- Install the best possible noise barriers along this stretch of the M2, ensuring they overlap the bridge carriageway at the bottom, to avoid noise leakage from the gap between the bottom of the noise barriers and the bridge carriageway - as this gap is at house height, not ground level.
- Be thoughtful of the amenity of residents during night construction.
- After the last widening of the M2, the visual impact to our street has been enormously affected. The appearance of the noise barriers and the addition of a very large blue sign on the M2 itself are now dominant features of our street's landscape, and they don't need to be. So please:
  - Paint the noise barriers in a camouflaging colour – and not that cement colour. The green on the bridge looks better. (see photo attachments 1 and 2)
  - Replant trees, which previously added a camouflaging effect, along the noise barriers. All trees were removed during the last widening and have never been replaced.
  - Move the 'big blue sign' (see photo attachments 4 and 5) on the M2 west so it doesn't dominate the streetscape! If moved west a tiny bit, it would be in front of a dirt mound behind the High School and not seen by any residents or their visitors, yet still visible to drivers on the M2.

Taking the opportunity to implement these measures during the integration works, would improve the streetscape and the general amenity of all residents of our street.