

Director – Infrastructure Projects
 Department of Planning & Environment
 Number: SSI 13_6136
 Major Projects Assessment
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Mrs Alison Pearson
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NorthConnex Application Number: SSI 13_6136

Please find below my submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for North Connex. I would like to make it very clear that I **oppose** the project as described in the EIS.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed location for a 25m stack in Wahroonga for the following reasons;

The proposed location for the northern ventilation stack is not only right in the middle of a highly populated residential area, there are also over 9300 school children within a 1km radius. These children will be exposed to the toxic pollution on a daily basis, along with multiple aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes. The school children are not only walking to and from their respective schools, but also spend extended periods of time in the playgrounds every week. Children are particularly susceptible to the known and proven effects of being exposed to the small pollutants from exhaust fumes, as they breathe faster. A major affect is the growth and development of their lungs. It seems the location could not be in a worse position.

We need to ensure that wherever the ventilation stacks are placed, we are considering not just the immediate effects for existing residents, but also those for the generations to come. This is not a short term issue, it will have a lasting effect on millions of people, therefore, it is essential that the proper research is carried out and that the results are honestly recorded, not manipulated to suit a particular outcome for a party who may have a vested interest, or manipulated for 'cost savings'. We are talking about people's health, life expectancy and the quality of life for generations to come. The proposed location goes against the current recommendations, which is very curious, WHY? Public Health must be a priority, regardless of cost. Who would willingly choose to knock a few years off their life?

A 25m stack is not very tall, seemingly the proposed location is in a valley. How was this location chosen? Why choose somewhere so densely populated that is in a valley? This is extremely important as the effects from the plume of toxic exhaust will be far more devastating if the stack is in such a position, for obvious reasons. A plume can maintain its concentration for long distances, particularly if the air is relatively still, which it IS in Wahroonga. It appears that when the weather patterns were being assessed, the data

collected was taken from a weather station in Terry Hills, which is much closer to the coast. It is not at all comparable and it's insulting and irresponsible to think that someone would think this inaccurate information could be used for something so important.

The emissions will be relatively cool when they come out of the stack and, therefore, they won't rise unless there is a weather pattern helping them to do so. As the air tends to be very still in Wahroonga, this will create a problem for everyone coming into contact with the emissions, which we already know will be in the thousands, including very young children. I am extremely concerned about the effects on our health. There are multiple large scale research studies that suggest that the impacts of air pollutants on our health are very serious. These include increased death from heart disease, increased risks of lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased asthma to name but a few.

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

The Department of Planning rejects the project in its current form for health reasons.

Alternative transport options to ease congestion on Pennant Hills Road be considered such as an orbital surface route.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Alison Pearson