Department of Planning Received 9 SEP 2014

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Scanning Room

Director - Infrastructure Projects Department of Planning and Environment Number: SSI 13\_6136 Major Projects Assessment GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001. Che Sau & E Ling Chang, 20, Highlands Ave., Wahroonga, NSW 2076.



Dear Sir,

## NorthConnex Application Number: SSI 13\_6136 EIS for NorthConnex

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

We are a retired couple living about 650 meters away from the proposed site of the exhaust.stack of the NorthConnex. Our two young grandchildren are attending kindergarten and primary school in this suburb. We strongly believe that the proposed twin-stack ventilation of the nine-kilometre tunnel motorway, when complete, will result in a very high and unacceptable level of risk that will well exceed established regulatory thresholds. Such risk will also have a clear and unacceptable community health implications to residents especially the young and the old.

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, we are 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, businesses 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. The unfiltered exhaust air from the tunnel must be filtered before it released into the surrounding area.

We would like your Department to consider the following points:

- (1) Thorough Review of the Present Stack Design, Location and Siting: The present stack design, location and height must be carefully reviewed to reduce their health, environmental and visual impacts, and ensure that their operation will not impair any air pollution levels in the locality. The stacks must be placed as high as possible and not in a valley. They must therefore have a height of at least 35m. Comprehensive environmental monitoring must be provided as a standard feature of the stack operation.
- (2) Inclusion of Effective Air Filtration System: An effective air filtration system must be immediately considered for inclusion to address related environmental issues and its cost-effectiveness. Overseas experience and innovation in filtration equipment have showed that the dangerous components of vehicle pollution could be economically

removed from Northconnex by using electrostatic precipitators and other new gas treatment systems. Currently, many similar systems are in use in tunnels in Australia, Europe, Japan and other parts of the world, as their effectiveness has been proven by international experts.

We are pro-environment, and do appreciate the improvement that will be made to the traffic congestion along Pennant Hills Road once the NorthConnex is completed. However we do want your Department to consider carefully the environmental impact on our community and the long-term health impact to the residents in this community. We hope that your Department will consider our input seriously and carefully.

Finally, we would declare that we have not made any donation to any political party in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

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Che Sau Chang

E Ling Chang