

PCU55605

**Director – Infrastructure Projects
Dept. of Planning & 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 I object to the project as described in the EIS.

My name is Lee Hennessey and I live in Woonona Avenue seven houses away from the proposed site of the northern stack (near Fern Avenue).

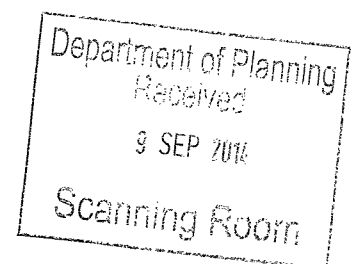
My age this year will be 67 in October and as traffic air pollution is particularly hazardous to the aged (as well as children and pregnant women) please understand my concerns which I have detailed below.

I support the building of the NorthConnex tunnel, and acknowledge the benefits it will provide for the community but I also support relocating the northern tunnel exit (portal) and pollution stack to a location that minimises the health risks, both in the short and long term, to all residents.

My concerns are as follows

Air Pollution

- OECD report which states that between 2005 and 2010, the number of deaths from air pollution in Australia jumped from 882 to 1483, representing a 68 per cent rise. (SMH May 23 2014)
- No matter how tall the stack is, if there is no wind on a particular day a significant proportion of the pollutants will fall on the community.
- The placement of the northern ventilation stack in a valley in Wahroonga where there are often low wind speeds and high rainfall, will result in poor dispersion and exposure of the community to high levels of tunnel emission.
- I am concerned about the multiple flaws in the air quality modeling of the northern stack in the EIS. These include:
 - Extrapolation of meteorological data from other weather stations which do not reflect the local meteorology, local topography, and the valley location.



- The use of a coarse topographical model
 - The failure to consider polluted intake air from the Pennant Hills/M2 interchange as part of the project contribution to air quality at Wahroonga
 - the background air quality being based on air quality at Lindfield, Prospect and Davidson and the lack of any actual data on PM_{2.5}
 - The US EPA confirms that PM_{2.5} causes, in the long and short term, Cardiovascular Disease
- Professor Stephen Leeder (Professor Emeritus in Public Health and Community Medicine at Sydney University) is quoted as saying that 'safe levels (of pollutants) have been proven wrong over the years'. NorthConnex are predicting a 'negligible impact on local air quality'.
 - Michele Goldman CEO of the Asthma Foundation NSW says that the traffic levels for the M5 were underestimated and that more diesel fuelled trucks/cars means more small particles. The WHO has classed smaller particles as Carcinogenic.
 - As I understand it, the monitoring equipment is not able to monitor PM 2.5 and under smaller particles effectively as it is not modern enough.
 - If/when the tunnel is in operation we need to have the air quality monitored continually and the results made public on a regular basis not just one year as promised by NorthConnex.

Noise Pollution

- I live on an access road (Woonona Avenue) to the stack site which narrows to one lane if cars are parked in the road. If trucks accessing the stack site have to manoeuvre around parked cars this will cause more noise.
- NorthConnex has given different answers to CAPS members regarding whether they will work 24 hours or not. I am absolutely against a 24 hour operation.

I request the following action be taken:

- Move the tunnel portals and stack to the Hornsby/Asquith industrial area
- Move the tunnel portals and stack 2 km north of the current proposed position into a bushland area

I would like to also state that I support the CAPS (Community against Polluting Stacks) submission.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Ms Lee Hennessey
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