

**Director – Infrastructure Projects  
Dept. of Planning & Environment  
Number SSI 13\_6136  
Major Projects Assessment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Libbie (Elizabeth) Brice  
31A Woonona Avenue  
WAHROONGA NSW 2076

**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.

I am 67 yrs old and live seven houses from the proposed NorthConnex stack on the corner of Bareena and Woonona Avenue. I am an asthmatic along with one in ten other Australians. 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. One tonne of pollution a month 50 metres above our heads and filtered through our lungs.
- 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:
  - Satellite data used by North Connex is inadequate for Wahroonga
  - Use of meteorological data from other weather stations which do not reflect the local meteorology, local topography, and the valley location e.g. NorthConnex chose Davidson (much higher wind velocity) and Sydney airport to judge the plume from the stack impact – this is hardly representative of Woonona Avenue Wahroonga and Pennant Hills.
  - The failure to consider polluted intake air from the Pennant Hills/M2 interchange as part of the project contribution to air quality at Wahroonga
  - I do support the construction of the tunnel but it must be designed properly with important considerations to the health impact of pollutants, exposure levels and cumulative effects of pollutants.
  - The US EPA confirms that PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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’, this I am very sceptical about.
  
- 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 <sub>2.5</sub> 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. Public health should be a priority regardless of cost.

#### 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Libbie Brice', written in a cursive style.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Libbie Brice  
31A Woonona Avenue  
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