

Director – Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
Number: SSI 13_6136
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001



NorthConnex Application Number: SSI 13_6136

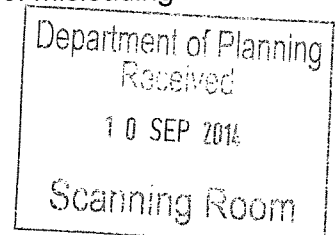
Please find below our submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for NorthConnex

Firstly, we would like to state that we strongly object to the project as described in the EIS. We are seriously concerned about the following issues and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning. Our concerns are set out below;

1. The location of the northern ventilation stack in the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga where over 9,300 school children as well as residents, those in aged care facilities, shops, hospitals and businesses will be exposed to dangerous levels of pollution.
2. Much data in the EIS seems inappropriate for the location of the tunnel and provides a misleading view on the likely dispersal of pollutants, Wahroonga being in a valley with less wind than assumed in the EIS, almost guaranteeing that pollution will fall on and stay with nearby residents for long periods.
3. Much independent research reports on the serious health risks associated with fine particulate matter as will be drawn from the tunnel, particularly carcinogenic exhaust emissions from the high and increasing proportion of diesel cars and trucks. These health risks include increased deaths and serious illness from heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased asthma, increased autism and congenital heart defects.
4. Experiences world-wide and in Australia in projects such as the M5 should demonstrate beyond doubt the obligations on authorities to place the health well-being of the community above commercial interests of business. Clearly, experience with the M5 demonstrates that once poor decisions have been made on tunnel projects, they can never be effectively corrected.

To address our concerns, we request that the following actions be taken;

1. Transurban should be instructed that there will be no approval of a tunnel without adequately filtered ventilation in the tunnel and for the exhaust stacks and, if this adds a cost of 20-30 cents per trip on users of the tunnel, then that will be money well spent on the health of commuters and those who will suffer around the ventilation shafts. The users should pay rather than the broad community through added health costs from the consequences of pollution.
2. The EIS should be amended to reflect data relevant to the specific location of the tunnel and the realistic mix of trucks, buses and cars, having regard to diesel and petrol engines. Currently, the community is being conned and in this era of class actions, decision makers should be concerned at consequences of misleading information.



3. Specific guidance should be taken from experience with the M5 which is less than half the length of the proposed NorthConnex tunnel and which is recognised as one of the world's dirtiest tunnels.
4. The project needs more ventilation stacks, all filtered.

Yours faithfully,



John and Belinda Pettigrew

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7th September, 2014.