

Dr DA and Mrs NF Stace
18 Kintore Street
Wahroonga NSW 2076



Director – Infrastructure Projects
Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

4th September, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

As residents of the suburb of Wahroonga, living within 500 meters of the proposed northern portals of the NorthConnex Tunnel we would like to register some concerns re the current proposal. While traffic along Pennant Hills Rd is very congested and will certainly become more congested in future years, we believe more work needs to be done to ensure a better outcome for residents affected by the construction phase of a tunnel and residents affected by the unfiltered exhaust fumes proposed to be released into the environment, so close to so many homes, schools and hospitals in the immediate vicinity.

We are concerned for the following reasons:

- The proposed tunnel is more than twice as long as any other tunnel in Australia, creating far more exhaust fumes which will be released in a concentrated, unfiltered form through a **single stack situated very close to a well-established residential area.**
- These polluting fumes from 9 km of tunnel, conveying 14,000 vehicles each day, will create a **significant health hazard** to area residents, especially the young, the pregnant and the aged.
- The proposed construction period of at least 5 years is a very long time to **disrupt local communities** with heavy truck movements, with the attendant noise pollution, disease-causing silica dust and exhaust pollution.
- **Property values** in our heritage-listed residential community will most certainly fall significantly as a result of the adverse effects of the problems created.

We advocate that:

- The proposed **tunnel portals** should be located further north and the **exhaust fume stack/s should be located away from established residential areas** – preferably within the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to the north of Nth Wahroonga, even at greater construction cost.
- Further studies should be initiated to ensure construction of any proposed tunnel is carried out in a **manner safe to the residents** of the surrounding area, with as little disruption as possible.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Douglas A Stace & Mrs Nitia F Stace

