

12<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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**Attention:** Director - Infrastructure Projects

Department of Planning and Environment

**Re: Application number - SSI 13\_6136 (NorthConnex Project)**

While we support the NorthConnex project, this submission outlines our concerns that we would like addressed prior to the approval of the project by the Department of Planning and Environment.

**Summary of Concerns**

- Noise during construction of Southern Interchange
- Detailed design of Southern Interchange during and post construction
- Right of carriageway easement
- Use of local roads during construction near Southern Interchange
- Impact on local roads near Southern Interchange

### **Noise during construction of Southern Interchange**

For residences adjacent to the work site, it is unclear what noise levels are to be expected during construction, how noise impacts will be managed and communicated to residents, how noise will be monitored independently, what recourse is available to residents if noise levels are unacceptable even if within the acceptable ranges, what remediation options are available for short term and long term disruptions and what measures will be put in place to ensure timely and satisfactory responses to complaints.

As a resident whose property is adjacent to the entrance for tunnelling, I am particularly concerned about noise as I will have a newborn and an infant at the start of construction. I am concerned that both day and night time noise levels may disrupt their sleep patterns even though they may be within the acceptable adult noise ranges. I would like to know what options will be made available to us ahead of time.

The intermittent relocation of 2 young children over the 4 years of construction with 2 weeks notice is both disruptive and time consuming and therefore not acceptable to me. Considering our situation, I would greatly appreciate early understanding of the expected noise levels during the planning stages and proactive remediation to ensure the minimisation of the impact of construction noise.

### **Detailed design of Southern Interchange during and post construction**

For residences adjacent to the work site, it is unclear how the work site will evolve over the duration of the project and the consideration of visual and noise impacts when positioning the entrance for tunnelling.

- Construction and noise from the surface of the work site will carry directly to our property as we are located adjacent to the site with direct line of sight. It is unclear where the entrance for tunnelling will be located and whether its location will minimise the noise impacts of the movement of heavy vehicles and the visual impact of the acoustic sheds.

- The steep decline from Pennant Hills Road to residential properties has caused heavy run-offs, erosion and damage to properties during severe storms in the past and it is unclear how these issues will be managed during and post construction.
- Due to the differing slope of the land between the work site and adjoining properties, it is unclear what excavation works are expected, if any access is required via private property, the ground levels between the interchange and adjoining properties during and post construction and where and at what level temporary fencing will be constructed.
- It is unclear the maturity of plants which will be used to provide privacy and screening between the Southern Interchange and adjoining private properties. As our property will be directly adjacent to the car park, we would like ensure that adequate mature plants and screening be used to protect our privacy.

In general, we would like to see more community consultation during the detailed design phase of the Southern Interchange and more information on construction phases as it will have significant long term impacts on our properties both during and post construction.

#### **Right of carriageway easement**

There is a right of carriageway easement on 2 Eaton Road, West Pennant Hills. We would like to know if there is any intention to use this easement during and after construction. If so, we would like to know the nature of its use. Otherwise, we would like to know if the easement will be removed.

#### **Use of local roads during construction near Southern Interchange**

The use of Aiken Road, Oakes Road and Eaton Road/Karloon Road as a proposed inbound and outbound heavy vehicle access route from the north into the southern interchange construction site will cause congestion and noise.

There are already significant traffic delays during peak hours due to the proximity to the M2, Pennant Hills Road, bus stops, schools and Beecroft train station. With these roads being single lane

and the addition of roadside parking, it is unreasonable to expect these roads to be able to service over 1400 heavy vehicles each day. Additionally during peak hours it is very difficult to turn right from Eaton Road onto Karloon Road, which is the expected outbound route.

We would like an alternative route selected and would be interested to know the traffic impacts of the alternative route.

#### **Impact on local roads near Southern Interchange**

With only one northbound tunnel entrance from Pennant Hills Road, the NorthConnex project will place additional traffic demands on nearby single lane local roads to get access to the northbound tunnel (Copeland, Aiken, Eaton, Karloon, Oakes and Murray Farm Road). Without a direct connection from the southbound tunnel to M2 east, during times of congestion there could be delays with southbound tunnel traffic trying to merge back into Pennant Hills Road and southbound Pennant Hills Road traffic merging to access M2 east.

It is unclear whether traffic modelling has been conducted to understand the traffic impacts on local roads surrounding the Southern Interchange and what measures will be taken to relieve congestion points.

Thank you for your consideration,

