

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 **we object to the project** as described in the EIS.

We have a high level of concern regarding the following issues and request that these be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning. In regards to the NorthConnex tunnel, we are concerned about:

1. Placement of the northern ventilation stack in the centre of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where 9,300 school children will be exposed under unfiltered air pollution, as well as multiple aged care facilities, hospitals, homes and businesses.
2. We are concerned about the large amount of emissions especially from diesel vehicles when driving through the NorthConnex tunnel, as the tunnel is designed for heavy freight to bypass Pennant Hills Rd. The high volume of emissions will be emitted through the placement of the northern ventilation stack, and will push emission levels in Wahroonga higher than before. If the terrain is just like Sydney Harbour tunnel sets on a windy area, fresh air can easily dilute the concentration of emissions. However, the fact is: the northern ventilation stack is set in a valley of Wahroonga where there are often low wind speeds, which will result in poor or worse dispersion and exposure to community to higher levels of tunnel emissions than usual. Not even mention NorthConnex claims Filtration is not necessary.
3. We are highly concerned about the multiple large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious. These include increase death from heart disease, increased risks of lung cancer, stroke, poor lung growth in children, increased asthma, and recent research suggesting low birth weight for pregnant women, increased autism, and

congenital heart defects. These studies confirm air pollutants have prothrombotic and inflammatory effects on humans which cause the above health problems and also loading the expense of Medicare.

To address our concerns we request that the following actions are undertaken:

1. Due to the significant health concerns of the current project design, I request the department of planning does not approve the project in its current form.
2. An independent options assessment process should be undertaken to assess alternative locations for the ventilation stack and portals.
3. We also request that alternative transport options to ease congestion on Pennant Hills Rd be considered such as an orbital surface route.