

12 September 2014

Att: Director - Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
Application number - SSI 13_6136
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001
Submitted online: www.planning.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Submission to NorthConnex Application No.: SS13_6136

Please find below my submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for the NorthConnex project.

I object to the project as described in the EIS due to the following concerns:

1. Air quality:

- I understand that the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious and include increased death from heart disease, increased risk of lung cancer, stroke, increased asthma (of which my daughter suffers) and poor lung growth in children.
- I am concerned that the heights of the ventilation stacks will not be adequate to effectively disperse pollutants into the atmosphere, leading to the community health effects mentioned above.
- I found the argument to not include filtration on the ventilation stacks extremely unconvincing. It was based largely on cost and compared it to alternative methods of reducing emission including reduction of vehicular traffic, which I'm sure is not the objective of the project team.
- I am also concerned by the discrepancy in information and community concerns provided by the project team and by other community groups including a group of respected medical professionals. As a community member, it is very difficult to formulate informed views when presented with such a diverse range of facts and opinions.

2. Location of the Trelawney St tunnel support facility and construction compound

- **Zoning:** the proposed location of the Trelawney St tunnel support facility will displace several homes and border several more, having a high negative impact to the local community both during construction and ongoing operation of the facility. The facility would be better located directly (or to the north) across Pennant Hills Road, away from the residential area. The EIS states that *'The area surrounding the Trelawney Street northern tunnel support facility site is generally zoned R2 Residential Development under the Hornsby LEP 2013, with the areas immediately across Pennant Hills Road zoned B6 Enterprise Corridor. Further north are areas zoned IN1 General Industrial. The surrounding zoning under the LEP identifies that the desired future character of the broader area is to retain the existing low density development'*. Therefore the facility would be more

appropriately located in areas zoned General Industrial or Enterprise Corridor rather than Residential Development.

- **Landscape character zone:** I don't agree with the description of the Trelawney St landscape character zone in the EIS. It fails to recognise the residential area it will displace and references commercial and retail areas. The only residential area referenced is 'adjacent' to the site. A reader not familiar with the area could interpret that the facility is in an area currently solely occupied by commercial and retail facilities however this is not the case. Several houses will be demolished and adjacent residents will be severely impacted by the scale of construction works proposed and by the enormous structure that will remain.
- **Visual impact:** The artist's impression of the Trelawney St facility shows an enormous structure that is extremely imposing to adjacent properties on the eastern side of Pennant Hills Road. Can the site be lowered so that visual impact is lessened? Also, the view from Pennant Hills Road is very unattractive with a clear lack of design innovation and landscaping. For the site to change from mainly houses to a massive industrial box structure will have a major visual impact to the local community. This is inconsistent with the Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirement to '*demonstrate how the proposed urban design elements of the project would be consistent with the existing and desired future character of the area.*'
- **Construction traffic impact:** I am extremely concerned by the proposed 1340 traffic movements per day and the 24/7 traffic movements associated with the Trelawney St facility during construction. This combined with the Pioneer Avenue construction compound will be disastrous for motorists wishing to travel between Thornleigh and Westleigh via Duffy Avenue and the surrounding stretch of Pennant Hills Road. Pennant Hills Road is already highly congested but the Duffy Ave/Pennant Hills Road intersection is a particular traffic issue already. Personally, I drive my children to Thornleigh West Public School via this intersection twice daily and it often very congested, particularly during peak times and always in the afternoons (out of peak periods also). How will these additional traffic movements be accommodated by local roads and what impact will they have on congestion in the surrounding suburbs?
- **Construction noise, dust and visual impact:** I am concerned by the dust and other air pollutants generated during construction of the tunnel and extracted via the Trelawney Street facility. I understand the extraction gases will be filtered however I am concerned by the potential health impacts of construction air pollution due to the proximity of the facility within a residential area. I am also concerned by the visual impact and noise during construction of the facility. In addition to the 24/7 heavy vehicle movements, the EIS also refers to a 15m acoustic shed and 15-20m high equipment and machinery located in the compound.
- **Potential to exhaust during normal operations:** I understand the Trelawney St facility is for emergency ventilation of the tunnel. However I am concerned that in the event that the northern and southern ventilation stacks are found to be ineffective, the support facilities including the Trelawney Street facility will be used during normal operations. This would have extreme impacts to the health and well-being of the local community.

Yours sincerely

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