

This is an objection to the NorthConnex proposal.

Composition of Particulate Matter and its Effects on Health

For Minister Duncan Gay to give us statistics saying that 7% of particulate matter comes from vehicles and 50% comes for wood fire heaters is mischievous in the extreme.

What is missing in the NorthConnex EIS and public debate is the fact that not all Particulate Matter has the same chemical composition.

Diesel exhaust is a mixture containing over 450 different components, including vapours and fine particles coated with organic substances. Over 40 chemicals in diesel exhaust are considered toxic air contaminants overseas. Exposure to this mixture may result in cancer, respiratory effects, and other health problems. Weight-for-weight diesel particles are more than 40 times as carcinogenic as tobacco smoke.

In June 2012 the WHO declared diesel fumes to be a Level-1 Human Carcinogen ie proven evidence of carcinogenicity in human beings http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2012/pdfs/pr213_E.pdf

What is happening at the exit portals and stacks of all Sydney tunnels is morally wrong. Passive smoking is banned in public spaces and in cars where children are present, but a substance that is 40 times more carcinogenic is being allowed to spew out over Sydney suburbs where children run and play.

The argument that the polluted air is being sent up into the atmosphere to be “dispersed” means that this substance, which is 40 times as carcinogenic as tobacco smoke, is being spread over the whole of Sydney. Given that it is acknowledged that there are no safe levels of exposure to diesel emissions, this is a disgraceful indictment on Australian governments both State and Federal.

Requirement 1

That NorthConnex is made to investigate the best quality air filtration system using the latest in world class technological design and to install this system in all four ventilation outlets of the M1 – M2 twin tunnels. i.e. Southern Ventilation Stack, Northern Ventilation Stack, Wilson Road Emergency Outlet and Trelawney Street Emergency Outlet.

Requirement 2

That all Sydney tunnels are retrospectively fitted with well-designed and well-maintained air filtration systems.