

8 September 2014

Director - Infrastructure Projects  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Number: SSI 13\_6136

Major Projects Assessment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=6136](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6136)

**NorthConnex Application Number: SSI 13\_6136**

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

I object to the project as described in the EIS.

I am greatly concerned about the following issues and request that they be considered by NorthConnex and the Department of Planning.

With regards to the NorthConnex tunnel, I am concerned about the following issues:

1. The location of the Ventilation Stacks in residential areas. In particular the unfiltered northern ventilation stack in the middle of a densely populated residential area in Wahroonga, where there are over 9000 school children who will be exposed to the emissions from the stack as well as aged care facilities, hospitals, businesses and homes (some of which are beside, facing or will have tunneling under their properties).
2. The location of the Northern Ventilation stack is in a valley in Wahroonga where the air is often still or with low wind speed, which will result in poor dispersion and greater exposure to high levels of tunnel emission to the local community.
3. I am very concerned about the numerous large scale research studies that suggest the impacts of air pollutants on health are serious. These include increased 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.
4. I am concerned about the project including future provisions for portal emissions in densely populated areas, which will result in emissions remaining at ground level, and hence exposing the local population to pollutants. I am also concerned that NorthConnex's claim that there will no portal emissions from current proposal cannot be verified.
5. Of further concern are the large amount of diesel emissions which will be emitted from the NorthConnex tunnel, as it is being designed for heavy freight to bypass Pennant Hills Rd. Diesel emissions have been classified as carcinogenic by the

## NorthConnex EIS Submission

World Health Organisation, and also contain a larger number of fine particles which penetrate deep into lung tissue and remain there causing inflammation.

6. I am also concerned about the air quality within the tunnel which is shown in the EIS to have exceeded above standards for pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>, and haze from particulate matter at the ends of the tunnel.
7. Of concern are the multiple flaws in the air quality modelling of the northern stack in the EIS. These include:
  - a) extrapolation of meteorological data from other weather stations which do not reflect the local meteorology, local topography, and the valley location.
  - b) The use of a coarse topographical model
  - c) The failure to consider polluted intake air from the Pennant Hills/M2 interchange as part of the project contribution to air quality at Wahroonga
  - d) the background air quality being based on air quality at Lindfield and Prospect and the lack of any actual data on PM<sub>2.5</sub>
8. I am concerned that a full and transparent options assessment process was not undertaken to assess alternative designs for the project. Unlike other tunnel projects in Sydney there are alternatives for locating the stack and portals in non-residential areas.
9. I am concerned that the justification for not providing filtration for the stacks is unconvincing and has been lightly dismissed.

To address my concerns I request that consideration be given to the following suggested actions::

1. The air quality and human health impact assessment need to be revised to address the issues raised above.
2. An independent options assessment process should be undertaken to assess alternative locations for the ventilation stack and portals.
3. To undertake a Life Cycle Analysis and assessment for the provision of filtration
4. A long term health study on children and residents in areas impacted by stack discharges be included as part of the conditions of approval.
5. A comprehensive air quality monitoring program is developed and implemented.
6. An independent review of the ventilation system is undertaken to ensure that NorthConnex's claim of no portal emissions is justified.
7. Portal emissions from NorthConnex in the future are banned.
8. The Submissions Report/Preferred Project be exhibited to allow the community to respond to the revised information contained in the report.
9. The Department does not approve the project in its current form as it clearly does not meet the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Gail S Bartlett

PO Box 237, Albert Park, Vic. 3206 – (I will be returning to 84 Woonona Ave., Wahroonga NSW 2076 in the near future, having sold 86 Woonona Ave.)

