

H18/87868

Mr Keith Ng
Senior Planner
Transport Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Ng

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Project (SSI 7485 – Modification 1)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WestConnex M4-M5 Link Project main tunnel modification report (SSI 7485 – Modification 1). NSW Health has reviewed the report focussing on issues that may impact human health. NSW Health makes the following submission for your consideration.

The comments provided below are contingent on confirmation by the NSW EPA that the methods and modelling employed to assess environmental impacts are appropriate.

- Extended impacts on residents sensitive to construction fatigue around Northcote Street Civil and Tunnelling Site (NSCT) are noted. The site will now be utilised for tunnelling and 24 hours/7 days a week operation for a further 4 years. The community in this general area have already been impacted by WestConnex construction, and as such should be considered as very sensitive receivers. The associated impact of the continued 24 hours/7 days a week use of G-loop for another 4 more years has the potential for further impact on already fatigued local residents. In addition, the removal of the Darley Street Civil and Tunnelling Site (DSCT) means that total tunnelling time for the project will increase by a further 6 months.
- Air pollution from demolition dust is also noted. Some receivers have now been reclassified from medium to high with this modification (page 6-22, Table 6-22). This is of concern particularly as it will occur in the area (Haberfield and Ashfield) where the community has already expressed considerable concerns about dust.
- There are some sensitive receivers who may experience noise and/or vibration exceedances and some sleep deprivation associated with the modification without adequate mitigation. This particularly includes those impacted by tunnelling activities and the G-loop reconfiguring construction and decommissioning works.

All feasible and reasonable measures are to be undertaken to prevent or minimise impacts to the community surrounding the construction areas, particularly when activities are conducted in the proximity of very sensitive or sensitive receivers where construction fatigue is most likely. Where levels of dust or noise above acceptable levels are identified, activities should be reviewed and additional mitigation measures applied to ensure acceptable levels are not exceeded.

NSW Ministry of Health

ABN 92 697 899 630

73 Miller St North Sydney NSW 2060
Locked Mail Bag 961 North Sydney NSW 2059
Tel. (02) 9391 9000 Fax. (02) 9391 9101
Website. www.health.nsw.gov.au

Consideration should also be given for a broad range of suitable mitigation measures for residents who will experience extended consecutive and concurrent construction activities due to this modification. Ongoing engagement with the community prior to and during construction changes and events, including a complaints management system, community feedback systems, informing residents of changes to scheduled activities or of unplanned events, and a range of mitigation measures are recommended in the context of construction fatigue.

Thank you for your consideration of NSW Health's submission to the WestConnex M4-M5 Link project modification. If you would like more information on any of the points raised in our submission, please contact Kishen Lachireddy, Principal Advisor, Environmental Health Branch on 9424 5999.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jeff Standen

Acting Director
Environmental Health Branch
Health Protection NSW

26 SEPTEMBER 2018