



DOC19/1087191

16 December 2019

Mr Luke Kennington
Transport Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Kennington

**WestConnex M4-M5 Link – Modification 3 –
Iron Cove Ventilation Underground (SSI 7485 Mod 6)
EPA Advice on Modification**

I am writing to you in reply to your invitation to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide comment on the above modification request to the WestConnex M4-M5 Link project.

The EPA understands that the modification involves relocating the Iron Cove Motorways Operations Centre (MOC 4), including the substation and ventilation facilities, underground (the ventilation outlet location would be unchanged); constructing a 340 metre long ventilation tunnel connecting the Iron Cove Link tunnel at an underground location between Cambridge and Waterloo Streets, with the Iron Cove cut and cover structure near Callan Street; two caverns in the ventilation tunnel to house ventilation equipment and the substation; and an extension of the Iron Cove cut and cover area on the south-western side of Victoria Road to facilitate connection to the ventilation tunnel.

The EPA reviewed documents in relation to the potential **noise and vibration** impacts from the modification: the *Iron Cove Ventilation Underground Modification Report*, prepared by John Holland CPB Contractors Joint Venture, dated November 2019, and the *Iron Cove Ventilation Underground Modification Report Appendix D Noise and Vibration*, prepared by Renzo Tonin & Associates (dated November 2019)

The EPA wishes to acknowledge in broader terms that:

- The acoustic environment is likely to change and will be audible as a result of modification, particularly as construction of the project progresses. This may include construction noise and vibration during the evening and at night.
- It will be important to keep the community informed about construction activities as the project progress, and to seek input to identify the community's preference to mitigation, including work scheduling, and consideration of respite periods.

The EPA notes that the tunnelling of the ventilation cavern and tunnel is to commence once half of the cut and cover is complete. The applicant should confirm if there will be times of overlapping tunnelling (from the ventilation tunnel and the mainline tunnel) affecting the same receivers and if so, a cumulative noise and vibration assessment should be undertaken.

If the modification is approved, detailed information will need to be provided to the community, so they can understand what construction activities will take place; where it will take place; when it will

Phone 131 555
Phone 02 9995 5555
(from outside NSW)

Fax 02 9995 6900
TTY 133 677, then
ask for 131 155

PO Box 668
PARRAMATTA
NSW 2124

Level 13
10 Valentine Avenue
PARRAMATTA NSW
2150 AUSTRALIA

info@epa.nsw.gov.au
www.epa.nsw.gov.au
ABN 43 692 285 758

take place and for how long. Where construction activities are proposed outside of the recommended standard hours, the community should – as far as practicable – be engaged to identify feasible and reasonable mitigation, including periods of respite. The applicant should ensure that residents potentially affected by noise and vibration impacts from this proposed modification are engaged, so they have a clear understanding of the work schedule and how this may impact their amenity.

The EPA notes that operation of the Iron Cove fixed facilities will result in a decrease in noise levels from what was proposed in the EIS, with the location of the substation and ventilation equipment underground. The EPA notes that the predicted noise levels from operation of the ventilation stack includes a proposed attenuator to achieve the criteria derived in accordance with the *Industrial Noise Policy*. The Noise Impact Assessment also includes attenuation to the high voltage regulators (associated with the surface infrastructure) to achieve RBL + 5 dBA (48 dBA), with detailed assessment of mitigation to be undertaken in the Operational Noise and Vibration Review.

The EPA does not consider that any **new conditions** of approval **or suggested amendments to existing conditions** are required.

Should you require clarification of any of the above please contact Anna Timbrell on 9274 6345 or email anna.timbrell@epa.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



ALEKSANDRA YOUNG
Unit Head, Metropolitan Infrastructure
Environment Protection Authority