

Re: Submission in Response to State Significant Infrastructure Modification SSI-6136-Mod-3 – Modification to Northconnex Ventilation Outlet Limit.

Dear Sir,

I am making this submission as the mother of two young girls (aged 4 and 8) currently attending Abbotsleigh Junior School. I would like to express my strong objection to the modification request by the RMS to amend Condition of Approval E11 to raise the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) limit from 1mg / m³ to 4mg / m³. This is based on the following concerns:

- 1) Potential adverse impacts of this change on the 17 schools and childcare centres within a km of the stack (including Abbotsleigh Junior School) have not been adequately considered
- 2) Concerns regarding adverse health impacts, particularly on children and the elderly, have been raised by the Australian Medical Association NSW and the Asthma Foundation NSW.
- 3) NorthConnex will emit 500 micrograms per cubic metre of diesel particulates. The normal level across Sydney is between 8 and 25 micrograms. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified diesel emissions as a Group 1A carcinogen, which is the same class as asbestos, arsenic and mustard gas. These particulates are known to cause or exacerbate asthma and other respiratory illnesses, impair lung development in children and cause heart disease and cancers. As my four-year-old daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, this is of particular concern to me.
- 4) The WHO, as well as other scientific reviews, have concluded that there is **no safe level** of fine particulate matter (such as that which will be released from the NorthConnex stack) for children.
- 5) Original modelling of the dispersal of air pollution used weather patterns from other parts of Sydney, including Terrey Hills, 20 kilometres away, and Sydney Airport. Actual weather patterns in the Wahroonga area are likely to result in less dispersal of air pollution.
- 6) My understanding is that many of the health impacts of pollution from exhaust stacks are caused by ultrafine particles, which are difficult to measure and as such may be under-measured in tests of local air quality around these stacks.

There has been inadequate consultation by the RMS with the local community, including the parents of children attending local schools, about the potential impact of the proposed modifications. Further, this modification request is quite sudden, and the limited time allowed for submissions is manifestly insufficient.

I would respectfully make the following requests of the NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment:

- 1) Withhold approval of State Significant Infrastructure Modification SSI-6136.
- 2) Mandate the installation of filtration at ventilation outlets by RMS to reduce VOC emissions into the air, noting that filtration at tunnels is an international standard and is Recommendation 13 in the December 2018 NSW Parliament Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee Report on the impact of the Westconnex Project. Further, it should be mandated that such filtration be operational at all times.

I have not made any political donations in the last two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', is written over a horizontal line that spans the width of the page.