

NorthConnex and Air Pollution in our Community

The NorthConnex project is a 9km, 6 lane tunnel from the M2 to the M1 in Wahroonga. Initially 40,000 cars and 5000 trucks will use the tunnel daily, however over time this will increase to over 100,000 vehicles daily. Two smoke stacks at either end of the tunnel will discharge polluted air into the atmosphere. More worryingly, as traffic increases, polluted tunnel air may be discharged directly from the tunnel openings.

The northern stack, 23m high (equivalent to 7-8 stories), will be located at 19 Woonona Ave, Wahroonga; in the middle of a densely populated residential area and in close proximity to more than a dozen schools and 9300 school children. The air discharged from the stack will be unfiltered, as the NorthConnex project team do not consider that filtration represents “value for money”.



Why is this Tunnel different to others?

This tunnel is a monster in size – 6 times larger than the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, 3 times larger than the Lane Cove Tunnel and one of the top 10 largest road tunnels in the world.

The vent stacks of all other Sydney tunnels are located in industrial or non-residential areas – whereas the NorthConnex northern ventilation stack and portals will be located in a densely populated residential area and in close proximity to more than a dozen schools and 9300 school children

Particulate Matter, largely emitted by diesel powered trucks and cars, is now being referred to as the Asbestos of the 21st Century.

NorthConnex will release an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) at the end of May. The air quality assessment in the EIS will only look at a few of the large number of different pollutants in the tunnel air. It will not consider all pollutants and the complicated way some of them disperse and interact.

Medical research shows that air pollution leads to;

- increased risk of infant mortality
- increased risk of children developing autism spectrum disorder
- increased risk of developing asthma and allergies
- impaired lung function and lung development in children and adolescents
- increased risk of heart disease
- increased risk of death from lung cancer.

A high proportion of the vehicles using the tunnel will be trucks. Trucks can emit over 20 times as much air pollution compared to a car.

This seems too hard to solve? What can I do?

C.A.P.S. supports the NorthConnex concept, but we believe the current location of the northern stack and exits presents an unacceptable health risk to surrounding residents, school children and the community. There are alternative cost-effective solutions will avoid health risks for all communities.

We are witnessing a tunnel being built on the cheap – no state-of-the-art filtration system or a true assessment of alternatives that could extend the tunnel to a non-residential area only a few kilometres further along the M1. Instead polluted air will be discharged near houses and schools in a valley – which will entrap the polluted air.

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There are three things you can do.

1

We need a longer time to review and respond to the Environmental Impact Statement

The EIS document will be 2000+ pages and will contain detailed technical studies on all environmental issues. To allow the community and CAPS sufficient time to review and respond to the EIS we need a 90 day exhibition period for the EIS.

Our group has already gained support for an extension period from local politicians; Barry O'Farrell, Matt Kean, Paul Fletcher.

We need your voice to be heard on the 90 day exhibition period – the more people requesting the extension; the more likely it will be extended. We have a form letter/ email and the email addresses of the Minister for Planning and her colleagues for you to contact. You only need to spend 5 minutes for a matter of great importance to you and your community.



2

Opposition and ongoing CAPS support

There ARE alternatives. Please help us make sure these are considered, by emailing your concerns to those below. Alternatively you can go to the CAPS website and there are examples of emails which you can use. The message can be as short and direct as you wish – it is the NUMBER of concerned individuals that matters right now. Please email:

Barry O'Farrell
State Member for Ku-Ring-Gai
Email:
ElectorateOffice.Ku-Ring-Gai@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Matt Kean
State Member for Hornsby
Email:
hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Paul Fletcher
Federal Member for Bradfield
Email:
paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au

Please go to:
www.capsgroup.org
to download the letter and the email addresses for your submission.

We are yet to find anyone who does not agree that more time is required.

3

Can I assist?

CAPS is a community based group that support the tunnel but oppose the stack. We have had a groundswell of support, and continue to grow daily. Email CAPS to remain informed as to how you can assist.

www.capsgroup.org and
info@capsgroup.org



Marsden Street Ventilation Stack, Artarmon, Lane Cove Tunnel.

