

FINAL

meeting minutes

Meeting	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC)	Meeting No.	10
Location	NorthConnex Boardroom Level 2, Building D 55 Coonarra Avenue, West Pennant Hills	Time & Date	Tuesday 3 December 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Independent Chair	Abigail Goldberg (minute taker)		
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQCCC community representative: David Avery AQCCC community representative: Edward Caruana AQCCC community representative: Graham Strauss Parramatta City Council representative: Stuart Pike (Team Leader, Health) Hornsby Shire Council representative: Nichola Clarke (Environment Protection Manager) Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Helen Trappel (Environmental Health Services Coordinator) 		
Committee members			
In attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads and Maritime Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager: Sarah Rosewell Roads and Maritime Senior Project Manager: Sonja Shand (meeting, not site visit) NorthConnex Communications and Engagement Manager: Grace Illuzzi NorthConnex Communications and Engagement Director: Tim Nairne (meeting, not site visit) Lendlease Bouygues Joint Venture Installation Manager Surface M&E: Simon Valencia NorthConnex Project Co. Environment Manager: Scott Tinsley 		
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Anne Seaton (Manager, Compliance & Regulation) The Hills Shire Council representative: Daniel Giffney (Environmental Health Coordinator) North West Roads Group Community and Stakeholder Specialist: Tracey Baker 		

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<p>Bus tour of tunnel including project update</p> <p>A bus tour of the tunnel was undertaken, departing 3:10pm from 55 Coonarra Avenue and visiting part of both the north and south tunnels. A safety briefing was provided by Ms Chantelle Garrett of the NorthConnex project team on the bus on departure.</p> <p>Mr Valencia provided a project update during the tour, pointing out among other items the various tunnel surfacing materials, tunnel lighting, emergency exit corridors, ventilation outlet and water purifying facilities.</p>	

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2.0	<p>Welcome and minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>On return from the bus tour, the meeting was opened at 4:15pm. The Chair welcomed participants, including new representatives Nichola Clarke (Hornsby Shire Council) and Helen Trappel (alternate, Ku-ring-gai Council). Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Minutes from the previous meeting, which had been distributed inter-session, were agreed and approved.</p>	<p>Final minutes from previous meeting to be distributed with draft minutes from this meeting.</p>
3.0	<p>Declaration of interests</p> <p>No interests were noted.</p>	
4.0	<p>E11 project modification update</p> <p>An update was provided by Ms Shand and Ms Rosewell, who noted that the modification had, attracted substantial community interest and response.</p> <p>Ms Rosewell advised that RMS had undertaken a detailed analysis of all submissions, and provided a response to each issue. This is documented in a Response to Submissions (RTS) report, which was tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>For the benefit of the committee, Ms Rosewell provided a recap of the project air quality monitoring and reporting requirements. She also outlined an update of monitoring results to date, pointing out that October 2019 monitoring had recorded more than 29 exceedances of air quality standards for ambient air, attributed to bushfire conditions and unrelated to the tunnel.</p> <p>As more than 20 submissions had been received in response to the exhibition of the modification application, the application has been passed to the Minister for Planning for final determination.</p> <p>Committee members questioned the impact of bushfire smoke on the tunnel, and whether smoke was likely to penetrate inside the tunnels.</p> <p>The project team advised that current experience at other operating tunnels, for example the Cross City Tunnel, has been that smoke has been recorded outside the ventilation outlets but not inside the tunnel. Ms Shand confirmed that limits for managing air quality within the tunnel would remain constant regardless of ambient air conditions, meaning that should smoke enter the tunnel resulting in a decline in air quality, mitigation measures would be put in place as per the project conditions.</p>	<p>RMS to update on progress at next meeting.</p>
5.0	<p>Update from AQCCC representatives on informal community meeting</p> <p>Community representatives advised that they had been invited to meet with local residents regarding the project.</p> <p>The residents had raised a number of queries, regarding which the community representatives had prepared detailed responses. The conversation is broadly documented as follows:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUESTION: Why will the AQCCC would be in place for only two years after the road opens? <i>In this regard, community representatives advised that condition E7 stipulates that the AQCCC will be in place for two years after opening, and that the Committee is tasked with reviewing the need for the continuation of the ambient monitoring stations after this period, in consultation with the EPA.</i> • QUESTION: Is the capacity for extraction from the vents adequate? <i>In this regard, community representatives referred to condition B3, which sets a minimum exit velocity for the vents available at:</i> https://northconnex.com.au/docs/default-source/environment-documents/environment-approvals/instrument-of-approval-ssi-6136-2015-jan-13.pdf?sfvrsn=4 • QUESTION: Has the visual impact of the vent outlets been considered? <i>In this regard, community representatives discussed the residents concerns with them.</i> <i>The project team noted for future reference that the colour of the stacks was a silvery-grey, as documented in the urban design and landscape plans for NorthConnex which have been publically exhibited and approved by Department Planning Infrastructure and Environment and are available at:</i> https://northconnex.com.au/environment-and-approvals/udlp <p>The Chair and project team thanked the community representatives for their careful and diligent work in preparing for this meeting, as well as the time taken to meet with local residents.</p> <p>Going forward, the Chair noted that community representatives are welcome to but are not necessarily expected to meet with any groups or individuals. It is suggested to encourage local residents to do their research via the project website, and the enquiry contact points provided there. The project team are also available to provide assistance if needed.</p>	<p>Committee members may refer requests for information or project queries to ncxcommunitymanager@transurban.com, or the project website and contact points provided there.</p>
6.0	<p>Update on Operational Environmental Management Plans</p> <p>Mr Tinsley provided an outline of condition E30, which requires that Environmental Management Plans be prepared for the operations of the road, as distinct from the Construction Environmental Management Plan which is presently referenced.</p> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that these plans are presently being compiled, and will append a number of other environmental management plans that have already been completed. The final plan will address matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality, noise and vibration 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and energy use • Visual amenity and landscaping • Groundwater. <p>Once completed the Plan will be submitted to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment for approval.</p> <p>Members queried the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How climate change is being addressed? <i>In this regard, Mr Tinsley advised that the project team were considering ways of improving the environmental efficiency of the project for example improving energy efficiency by managing the use of fans.</i> <p><i>Mr Nairne noted that the project would also contribute to a reduction in vehicle emissions and fuel use as vehicles perform more efficiently in the tunnel, where there are no traffic lights and a relatively even gradient.</i></p>	<p>Project team to provide an update on progress at the next meeting.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Other business</p> <p>Mr Tinsley and Ms Shand noted that progress was also being made on addressing the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E15: draft guidelines had been prepared for local councils to assist them developing local air quality assessment processes for areas adjacent to ventilation outlets. Local council representatives confirmed that they had been consulted on these guidelines, and that amendments had been proposed which the project team was investigating. • E16: the project team had investigated whether tunnel operations could assist in enforcing smoky vehicle restrictions in tunnels. The preliminary conclusion, based on consultant investigation, had been reached that this was not practicable, whereas public reporting was an effective and easy reporting mechanism. Consultations with EPA indicate that they are in agreement with this approach. • New legislation: going forward tunnel outlets were required to be licensed by the EPA. Work towards this has commenced. <p>A provisional date of 18 February was agreed for the next meeting. Timing and an Agenda will be provided prior.</p> <p>In closing, the Committee expressed thanks to Grace Illuzzi for her support of the AQCCC, and wished her well in her next endeavours. Tim Nairne noted that he will oversee AQCCC support following Grace's departure.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 5:05pm.</p>	<p>Timing and Agenda for next meeting to be circulated by the Chair closer to the meeting date.</p>