

## Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (NCX AQCCC)	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January 2021 – December 2021
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	Abigail Goldberg	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	Sonja Shand

### 1. Executive Summary

NorthConnex established the Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC, or the 'Committee'), in mid-2017, in accordance with the Project Conditions of Approval B8. The Committee meets four times a year and is required to continue to operate for up to two years from the opening of NorthConnex, which occurred on 31 October 2020.

The AQCCC had, up until the end of 2020, included four local community representatives. This was one more than the three representatives required by the project approval conditions, however it was considered and agreed by the nominations committee on foundation of the AQCCC, that an additional representative, who was appropriately qualified for the task, would assist in ensuring equitable representation for the northern and southern parts of the motorway. At the end of 2020, one of the community representatives advised that they would be unable to continue participating due to relocation. As the Committee was functioning effectively and operations had recently commenced, the Chair, proponent and operator agreed to continue with the requisite three community representatives participating in meetings in 2021.

The Committee also includes representatives from The Hills Shire Council, Parramatta City Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Ku-ring-gai Council, who are invited to attend meetings. In addition, project representatives from Transport for NSW, NorthConnex Company Pty Ltd, and Transurban, participate in the Committee.

Abigail Goldberg was appointed in August 2017 as the independent chairperson for the AQCCC in consultation with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), and remains in this role.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee continued to follow Public Health Orders and maintained its meeting processes in a virtual capacity through 2021. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented the opportunity to have in person meetings or visits on-site at the NorthConnex Motorway Operations Centre, which had been a part of AQCCC activities previously.

Nevertheless, community representatives and committee members adapted, remained actively engaged, and provided positive inputs and contributions to the AQCCC throughout 2021.

### 2. CCC activities in 2021

Four virtual meetings were held in 2021. Agreed minutes of all meetings are publicly available and published online on the NorthConnex website, <https://www.northconnex.com.au/about-northconnex/environmental-approvals/aqccc>.

## Annual Report 2021

The minutes from each of the meetings held during 2021, noting dates and attendance, are included in this report as **Appendix 1**. Minutes from the November 2021 meeting will be finalised at the forthcoming AQCCC meeting of February 2022. Only final Minutes are published on the project website.

Key matters discussed at meetings in 2021 included:

- Representatives from NorthConnex explained to the Committee that NorthConnex was successfully opened to traffic on Saturday 31 October 2020, and the tunnel had run smoothly in operations since then. Maintenance activities had also gone well.
- Through the year, the NorthConnex project teams completed four maintenance closures to check systems and performance of the tunnel and rectify civil defects. There is significant coordinated effort and detailed planning involved to ensure NorthConnex workers are safe. The public, trucking and freight industries are informed ahead of scheduled tunnel maintenance closures.
- The NorthConnex project has moved firmly into the phase of monitoring air quality. Representatives from NorthConnex provided an update for the Committee regarding the Environment Protection License (EPL) reporting, which included providing monitoring data for an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) annual report which will be publicly available on the EPA website.
- Representatives from NorthConnex presented Ambient and In-tunnel air quality monitoring data and explained how air data is being collected and continually monitored through 13 in-tunnel sensors. All air quality monitoring data is compliant.
- The NorthConnex operator and proponent have two post-opening environmental audit compliances to complete, including noise monitoring to ensure that noise modelling predictions are accurate (Condition E24 and E26) and a Road network Performance Review Plan (Condition E28).
  - Noise monitoring was due to be completed 12 months after tunnel opening. The NorthConnex operator has requested an extension from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to carry out the monitoring in 2022. The extension has been requested as traffic levels were significantly impacted by Public Health Orders restricting movement during Covid-19. Once the noise monitoring has been carried out, this information will be publicly available in the Environmental Approvals section on the NorthConnex website.
  - Compliance with the Pennant Hills Road Regulatory Regime has been effective and successful, with the community, media, and Transport for NSW reporting an overall improvement and reduction of traffic on Pennant Hills Road and surrounding road network. Transport for NSW, as the proponent, will continue to look at the impact on local networks through a Road Network Performance Review Plan, per Condition of Approval E28.

## Annual Report 2021

- NorthConnex has been well received by the community, with local streets being returned to local communities, and no air quality or community issues reported.
- In November 2021, the project team circulated a Community Newsletter to the local catchment from West Pennant Hills to Wahroonga (20,000 copies) to celebrate one year into operations. The newsletter can be viewed from the News section on the NorthConnex website.
- Channel Nine News provided coverage to mark the one-year milestone. In attendance at the exclusive on-site media event were Julian Leeser MP Federal Member for Berowra, Adam Lloyd Head of Operations Transurban, and to cut and taste the cake, local community 7-year-olds (who also cut the opening ribbon with former NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian), Ezekiel and Malachi.

### 3. Key issues

The focus of 2021 has been on updating Committee members regarding NorthConnex operations and air quality monitoring data. As such, attention has been on Committee updates, input, and education regarding operational functions, actions, and processes. Several presentations were provided for the Committee, documents were transmitted for review at and inter-session, and responses to committee member questions and issues surrounding operational air quality monitoring and compliance requirements were provided. The following table summarises the key issues addressed at the Committee:

Issue	Actions Taken	Status
<b>Condition of Approval B8</b>	The Committee sought clarity on when the tenure for committee service will end or if it will be extended.	The Committee were advised that continuation of committee service is made in consultation with the Chair and DPIE Secretary. In 2022, the Committee will decide, per Condition B8 of the Infrastructure Approval.
<b>Condition of Approval E27</b>	The Committee sought advice regarding application of the Pennant Hills Road Regulatory Regime and was advised that at the time of the query the Regime was subject to a grace period, and advice and a warning letter was issued to industry during the grace period.	From March 2021, the regulatory regime enforcement commenced with fines now being issued. This was reported in the <a href="#">media</a> .
<b>Condition of Approval E5 – In tunnel Air Quality</b>	The Committee were advised of two ventilation exceedances (one in December 2020 and one on 16 February 2021). NorthConnex teams carried out investigations to determine the cause of breach.	It was found in December 2020 that the doors to the rooms containing monitoring equipment next to the ventilation facilities were not sealed correctly. The gaps were sealed to stop air coming into the equipment rooms.

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		<p>Once the rooms were sealed, all issues were resolved.</p> <p>Additionally, an ambient air quality PM<sub>10</sub> exceedance occurred in February 2021 due to bushfires and related poor air quality. As per protocols, this exceedance was reported to the authorities per condition of approval E5.</p>
<b>Operating and emergency systems</b>	<p>The Committee were notified of a truck fire and smoke incident in May 2021, which caused an exceedance reading. The Committee asked how the incident was managed and whether there was sufficient signage.</p>	<p>It was explained to the Committee that the incident was managed with NSW Fire and Rescue and the tunnel operating system. The tunnel's emergency radio and broadcast PA was activated, and emergency services attended the incident. NorthConnex Company also engaged with the freight industry to provide general awareness and information on how to stay safe in the tunnel in the event of truck fire or other emergency.</p>
<b>Condition of Approval, Environmental Performance - B7 Protocol</b>	<p>When traffic slows in the tunnel, NorthConnex traffic operations personnel need to take measures to close the tunnel for public safety. The Committee was advised that over the Easter weekend the tunnel had to be closed five times due to increased traffic volumes resulting in congestion on Pacific Highway at Mount Colah.</p>	<p>The NorthConnex Company are continuing work with TfNSW on network mechanisms to assist in traffic issues. There were no air quality exceedances due to the tunnel congestion. It was recommended to the Committee that Live Traffic alerts would be the best public means of keeping up to date with traffic and tunnel closures.</p>
<b>Condition of Approval E13 – Ventilation outlets and E18 – Public access to monitoring data</b>	<p>The Committee has been alerted to an ongoing issue with ventilation monitoring data unable to display on the NorthConnex website. The data is being collected and is available in an excel spreadsheet format but is not publishing through the online system.</p>	<p>NorthConnex Company are working with LLBJV, the construction contractor, to resolve this issue.</p>
<b>Condition of Approval – E7 - Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</b>	<p>The Committee has been advised that leases have been extended for ambient air quality stations in all locations.</p>	<p>TfNSW are paying for these stations which cost \$5,000 per station and need approval from the EPA. NorthConnex Company and Transurban will continue to monitor data from all monitoring stations.</p>

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**4. Focus for next 12 months**

The focus for the next twelve months will be on NorthConnex operations. Over the period the Committee will:

- Consider ongoing operation of the AQCCC in accordance with relevant Minister's Conditions of Approval (B8)
- Be provided with briefings on the bi-annual Air Quality Audit results, air quality monitoring and online data
- Visit the Motorway Operations Centre (Covid-safe site protocols permitting)
- Be provided with updates regarding the ambient monitoring stations.

The preliminary calendar of meetings for 2022 is as follows:

**Meeting 1: 28 February 2022**

- Project progress report, including update on AQCCC Annual Report
- Update: air quality monitoring results
- Briefing: website Environmental Documents and Air Quality Monitoring update
- Briefing: bi-annual Air Quality Audit results

**Meeting 2: 23 May 2022**

- Site visit: operations centre (tentative)
- Project progress report
- Update: Air Quality Monitoring update


**Meeting 3: 29 August 2022**

- Site visit: operations centre (tentative)
- Project progress report
- Update: Air Quality Monitoring update
- Preliminary discussion: need to continue the ambient monitoring stations.

**Meeting 4: 28 November 2022**

- Site visit: operations centre (tentative)
- Project progress report
- Update: Air Quality Monitoring update

Committee members were provided with this preliminary calendar in December 2021 and encouraged to nominate additional discussion points that may be of assistance to the AQCCC. Further opportunity is provided for Member input prior to each meeting when a draft Agenda is prepared and distributed.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	31 January 2022

**Appendix 1  
Meeting Minutes**

*Minutes from the November 2021 meeting will be finalised at the  
forthcoming AQCCC meeting of 28 February 2022.*

FINAL

# meeting minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC)	<b>Meeting No.</b>	15
<b>Location</b>	Online virtual meeting	<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	Monday 1 March 2021 5:05pm – 5:50pm
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Abigail Goldberg (minute taker)		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Edward Caruana</li> </ul>		
<b>Committee members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Graham Strauss</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Patricia Macloud</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Frank Hutchinson</li> <li>The Hills Shire Council representative: Daniel Giffney (Environmental Health Coordinator)</li> </ul>		
<b>In attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for NSW Operations Manager – NorthConnex and M7: Sonja Shand</li> <li>NorthConnex Project Co. Environment Manager: Scott Tinsley</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Safety, Environment and Stakeholder Manager: Daniel Lovett</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Community and Stakeholder Specialist: Tracey Baker</li> <li>Transurban Community Engagement Advisor (Operations): Raj Barot</li> </ul>		
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parramatta City Council representative: Stuart Pike (Team Leader, Health)</li> <li>Hornsby Shire Council representative: Nichola Clarke (Environment Protection Manager)</li> <li>Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Anne Seaton (Manager, Compliance &amp; Regulation)</li> </ul>		

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<p><b>Welcome and Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 5:05pm, when the Chair welcomed participants. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Draft Minutes from the previous meeting, which had been distributed inter-session, were discussed. Members sought to confirm the finishing date for the AQCCC, which was noted as November 2022 unless extended by the Secretary of the Department of Planning Industry and Environment in agreement with the Chair, per the project conditions. Following this discussion, the Minutes were approved as final.</p> <p>The Chair invited any declarations of interest. No declarations were put forward by Committee members, however the Chair noted that she has been appointed Independent Chair for the AQCCC for the M4 M5 Tunnel link.</p>	<p>Chair to finalise and issue Minutes from preceding meeting.</p> <p>Participants to note declaration of interest.</p>

Item	Subject	Action
2.0	<p><b>NorthConnex progress update</b></p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that since the opening of the project on 31 October traffic volumes within the tunnels have performed in line with forecasts while traffic volumes on Pennant Hills Road, in particular truck traffic, have declined.</p> <p>Mr Lovett advised that road closures have been minimal, with a recent closure over ten nights being required to address defects, and for maintenance.</p> <p>Ms Shand reminded participants that a 'road network performance' review is required by the project conditions after 12 months of operations, and as such will be prepared in October 2021. This review will look at road network performance, and any impacts from NorthConnex on the adjoining road network.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members noted that when a toll was recently introduced on the M5, some traffic seemed to adopt 'rat run' routes adjacent to the motorway.</li> <li>• Some members observed that anecdotal advice had been that big trucks appeared to still be using the Pacific Highway. Ms Shand noted that this was being monitored with a heavy vehicle counter already installed on the Pacific Highway. Ms Shand also noted that the M2/NorthConnex is becoming popular as an alternative route heading north from the city avoiding Pacific Highway.</li> <li>• Other members noted that they had experienced reduced traffic volumes on Pennant Hills Road and associated routes.</li> <li>• Project team members confirmed that the M5 toll, which is unrelated to NorthConnex, had been recently introduced with some impacts anticipated. It was confirmed that the 'road network performance' review, mentioned above, would provide actual data on the network performance.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport for NSW to keep members abreast of progress on the road network performance review.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Air quality – operational performance</b></p> <p>Mr Tinsley advised an exceedance had been recorded at the Larchmont Place monitoring station however this had been confirmed as a technical error. No other surface monitoring station exceedances had been noted.</p> <p>Further advised that in-tunnel data was well below upper permissible levels. At a micro (daily) level the data indicates spikes, which reflect peak usage or extraordinary events such as 27 December 2021, when large volumes of traffic left Sydney for local holidays.</p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that the tunnel was closed for a period on 27 December for safety reasons due to congestion on the M1, which resulted in traffic slowing within the tunnel.</p> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that a limited number instrument errors had been experienced in tunnel outlet monitoring locations, where</p>	<p>Project team to provide an update on operational performance at the next meeting.</p>

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>recordings were not reflective of actual conditions. This matter is being investigated and solutions sought.</p> <p>Further observed that some data on the website is not working as well as intended, in particular in-tunnel ventilation outlet data, which appears to indicate exceedances, however these periods correspond to maintenance periods, when data should not be being recorded. Again, this matter is being investigated and solutions sought.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members sought advice on where sensors are placed within vents, which the project team responded to.</li> </ul>	
4.0	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members sought to confirm whether responses had been sent to questions they had raised inter-session. The project team committed to issuing responses, which had been prepared.</li> <li>Members queried whether any questions or feedback on air quality had been received from the general public. The project team advised that while general operational complaints and queries had been received, there have been no comments on air quality, which is significant considering community concern regarding this in the project development phase.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting date was agreed as <b>3 May 2021</b>. Mr Lovett suggested that should COVID conditions permit, the meeting would be held on site at the tunnel control centre. Should this go ahead, members will be advised beforehand and provided with a map including details of where to park.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 5:50pm.</p>	<p>Responses to members questions to be issued.</p> <p>Members to diarise meeting date.</p>

FINAL

# meeting minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC)	<b>Meeting No.</b>	16
<b>Location</b>	Online virtual meeting	<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	Monday 3 May 2021 5:05pm – 5:45pm
<b>Independent Chair / minutes</b>	Abigail Goldberg		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Edward Caruana</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Patricia Macloud</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Frank Hutchinson</li> <li>The Hills Shire Council representative: Daniel Giffney (Environmental Health Coordinator)</li> <li>Parramatta City Council representative: Stuart Pike (Team Leader, Health)</li> <li>Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Anne Seaton (Manager, Compliance &amp; Regulation)</li> </ul>		
<b>Committee members</b>			
<b>In attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for NSW Operations Manager – NorthConnex and M7: Sonja Shand</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Safety, Environment and Stakeholder Manager: Daniel Lovett</li> <li>NorthConnex Project Co. Environment Manager: Scott Tinsley</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Community and Stakeholder Specialist: Tracey Baker</li> <li>Transurban Community Engagement Advisor (Operations): Raj Barot</li> </ul>		
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Graham Strauss</li> <li>Hornsby Shire Council representative: Nichola Clarke (Environment Protection Manager)</li> </ul>		

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<p><b>Welcome, Minutes of previous meeting, declaration of interests</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 5:05pm, when the Chair welcomed participants. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>As no comments had been received regarding the Draft Minutes from the previous meeting, it was agreed that these would be finalized.</p> <p>The Chair invited any declarations of interest. No declarations were put forward.</p>	Chair to finalise and issue Minutes from preceding meeting.
2.0	<p><b>Project progress update</b></p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that the main project activity at this stage is defects rectification. These rectifications typically take place during tunnel closures, and are overseen with the assistance of the project's Independent Certifier.</p> <p>Ms Shand advised that truck enforcement action has commenced, with fines now being issued rather than warnings only for trucks using local roads. Ms Shand observed that this</p>	

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>action has resulted in a noticeable reduction in truck traffic, which was supported by Committee members.</p> <p>Ms Shand noted that other project completion tasks currently underway involve addressing residual property matters. This includes the the final Pioneer Ave site occupied by the construction team, LLBJV, who are presently decanting from this location.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Air quality – operational performance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exceedance events:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that the two exceedances reported at the previous meeting have been resolved as it was found that rooms housing measuring equipment were inadequately sealed, resulting in NO<sup>2</sup> from the ventilation stacks leaking into the rooms and contaminating data outputs.</p> <p>A further exceedance event (PM2.5) was noted last week due to smoke particles from bushfire hazard prevention burning underway in the vicinity of the tunnel. Relevant agencies have been advised of the exceedance and the trigger for it, and are satisfied with the information provided.</p> <p>No other exceedances have been recorded for February, March and April 2021. The second audit of air quality monitoring (Todoroski Air Sciences) has also been drafted with satisfactory findings. The audit will be provided to AQCCC members inter-session once finalised.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members sought to clarify the NO<sup>2</sup> leak and implications of this. The matter was further discussed and the issue concluded.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst air quality data is being captured, Mr Lovett noted that <u>real-time</u> reporting for the ventilation outlet air quality remained unavailable on the project website. The data is not available due to a project defect, which is scheduled for rectification. Vent data nevertheless continues to be published on the NorhConnex website monthly, as required by the Conditions of Approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Truck fire:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Tinsley reported on a truck fire which was experienced in the south-bound tunnel shortly before midnight in the past month, noting that operations protocols were excercised efficiently, and that Emergency Services took action as required.</p> <p>It was noted that the truck driver left his vehicle, and that other truckers had pulled over and attempted to help, however neither of these actions were of assistance in the situation. The operations team have undertaken to work with Transport for NSW to educate truck drivers regarding action to be taken during an incident such as this, or in an emergency.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members suggested that signage within the tunnel may help in guiding truck driver actions. The project team noted that radio broadcasting as well as instructions relayed through the PA system were currently in place.</li> </ul>	<p>Project team to provide air quality monitoring audit report for dissemination to community members when possible.</p>

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>The core issue that is being investigated is why the broadcasts and PA announcements were not followed on this occasion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational matters including ramp closures:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Lovett updated the AQCCC regarding a ramp closure to manage the number of cars entering the tunnel resulting from congestion on the M1 during the peak Easter Holiday weekend period. The northbound entry ramp westbound from M2 via Pennant Hills Road only was impacted, with five closures required, the closure of ramps being triggered by a decrease in average speed within the tunnel, or air quality exceedances.</p> <p>Two further closures have been required during peak congestion periods since then. The project team are working with Transport for NSW to investigate network actions to mitigate traffic congestion around the Mount Colah area in particular so as to better manage this situation.</p> <p>Ms Shand observed that air quality levels were not exceeded during the closures.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members sought advice on how to remain updated regarding major incidents related to the tunnel. The project team noted that such incidents are managed by Emergency Services. It was suggested that members set-up alerts on LiveTraffic to enable them to keep abreast of tunnel activity, as well as referencing the website as needed.</li> <li>• Should any media issues be brought to TfNSW attention regarding NorthConnex air quality, then the AQCCC will be informed.</li> </ul>	<p>Members to set-up alerts on LiveTraffic should they wish to be kept updated on real time matters related to the tunnel.</p> <p>TfNSW to alert Members to media issues regarding NorthConnex air quality.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next meeting agreed as 5pm on 30 August 2021</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Lovett suggested that should COVID conditions permit, the meeting would be held on site at the NorthConnex Motorway Control Centre, and a site visit to the control room provided. Should this go ahead, members will be advised beforehand and provided with a map including details of where to park.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 5:45pm.</p>	<p>Members to diarise meeting date.</p>

FINAL

# meeting minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC)	<b>Meeting No.</b>	17
<b>Location</b>	Online meeting	<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	Monday 30 August 2021 5:04pm – 5:21pm
<b>Independent Chair / minutes</b>	Abigail Goldberg		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Edward Caruana</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Patricia Macloud</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Frank Hutchinson</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Graham Strauss</li> <li>The Hills Shire Council representative: Daniel Giffney (Environmental Health Coordinator)</li> <li>Parramatta City Council representative: Stuart Pike (Team Leader, Health)</li> <li>Hornsby Shire Council representative: Nichola Clarke (Environment Protection Manager)</li> </ul>		
<b>Committee members</b>			
<b>In attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for NSW Operations Manager – NorthConnex and M7: Sonja Shand</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Safety, Environment and Stakeholder Manager: Daniel Lovett</li> <li>NorthConnex Project Co. Environment Manager: Scott Tinsley</li> <li>NorthWestern Roads Community and Stakeholder Specialist: Tracey Baker</li> <li>Transurban Community Engagement Advisor (Operations): Raj Barot</li> </ul>		
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Anne Seaton (Manager, Compliance &amp; Regulation)</li> </ul>		

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<p><b>Welcome, Minutes of previous meeting, declaration of interests</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 5:04pm, when the Chair welcomed participants. Apologies were recorded.</p> <p>As no comments had been received regarding the Draft Minutes from the previous meeting, it was agreed that these could be finalised.</p> <p>The Chair invited any declarations of interest. No declarations were put forward.</p>	Chair to issue final Minutes from preceding meeting.
2.0	<p><b>Project progress update</b></p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that a recent maintenance shut-down had been completed over 5 nights, enabling defects to be addressed.</p> <p>Mr Lovett referenced the current COVID constrained environment, and noted that traffic was significantly less as a result of this.</p>	

Item	Subject	Action
3.0	<p><b>12 month Environment Protection Licence (EPL) reporting</b></p> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that the 12 month EPL reporting had been submitted to the EPA at the end of July. No feedback had been received to date. The report will be published on the EPA website once formally accepted.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Air quality – operational performance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exceedance events:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that an instrument fault at Wahroonga had resulted in an artificial 'spike' in air quality data monitoring results on 21 and 22 August, impacting PM 2.5 records. The instrument fault has since been rectified.</p> <p>Bushfire hazard reduction burning over the weekend of 14 August resulted in an exceedance of PM 2.5 and PM 10 across all monitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Monitoring concerns:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Lovett noted ongoing difficulties with <u>real-time</u> reporting for the ventilation outlet air quality. He confirmed that air quality data is being captured but remains unavailable on the project website on a live basis. The underlying concern is a project defect, which has not yet been rectified, but regarding which the contractor is being urgently pursued.</p> <p>Ms Shand advised that vent data continues to be published on the NorhConnex website monthly, as required by the Conditions of Approval.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members requested an email update once the defect has been rectified and real time data is available.</li> </ul>	<p>Email update to be provided for Members once real time ventilation outlet air quality data becomes available.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>No other business was put forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Next meeting</b> scheduled for <b>5pm</b> on <b>Monday, 29 November 2021</b>. It is anticipated that the meeting will be online.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting closed at 5:21pm.</p>	<p>Members to diarise meeting date.</p>

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# meeting minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC)	<b>Meeting No.</b>	18
<b>Location</b>	Online meeting	<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	Monday 29 November 2021 5:00pm – 5:40pm
<b>Independent Chair / minutes</b>	Abigail Goldberg		
<b>Attendees:</b> <b>Committee members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Edward Caruana</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Patricia Macloud</li> <li>AQCCC community representative: Graham Strauss</li> <li>The Hills Shire Council representative: Daniel Giffney (Environmental Health Coordinator)</li> <li>Hornsby Shire Council representative: Nichola Clarke (Environment Protection Manager)</li> </ul>		
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<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AQCCC community representative: Frank Hutchinson</li> <li>Ku-ring-gai Council representative: Anne Seaton (Manager, Compliance &amp; Regulation)</li> <li>Parramatta City Council representative: Stuart Pike (Team Leader, Health)</li> <li>Transurban Community Engagement Advisor (Operations): Raj Barot</li> </ul>		
Item	Subject	Action	
1.0	<p><b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 5:05pm, when the Chair welcomed participants. Apologies were recorded.</p> <p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and action items</b></p> <p>As no comments had been received regarding the Draft Minutes from the previous meeting, it was agreed that these could be finalised.</p> <p>The following action item will be addressed at this meeting:</p> <p><i>Update to be provided for Members once real time ventilation outlet air quality data becomes available.</i></p> <p><b>Declaration of interests</b></p> <p>The Chair invited any declarations of interest. No declarations were put forward.</p>	Chair to issue final Minutes from preceding meeting.	

Item	Subject	Action
2.0	<p><b>Project progress update</b></p> <p><b>Extension of ambient air quality monitoring stations leases:</b></p> <p>Ms Shand advised that the leases for the ambient air quality monitoring stations, which are located within The Hills and Hornsby local government areas, have been renewed for a year, with the option of further renewal if needed.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members requested advice on how long the ambient air quality monitoring stations were expected to remain operational.</li> <li>Ms Shand advised that the ambient air quality monitoring stations were required to be in place for at least two years after the tunnel opening, which is why the leases have been renewed for a further year. Prior to the two year period expiring, discussion with the AQCCC, and subsequent liaison with the EPA, would be required.</li> <li>It was agreed that a preliminary review of data trends and emerging issues, if any, would be presented to the AQCCC for discussion at the next meeting, which is scheduled for 28 February 2022. The EPA may be invited as an observer to a subsequent meeting to hear the views of the AQCCC.</li> </ul> <p><b>First year of operations:</b></p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that the first year of operations had been commemorated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A newsletter sent to the community</li> <li>Media reporting, in particular Channel 9</li> <li>Attendance of Federal MP (Julian Lesser) on-site for the event, including a cake cutting ceremony.</li> </ul>	<p>Preliminary review of ambient air quality monitoring stations data trends to be presented at the February meeting.</p> <p>This meeting to also consider whether EPA are to be invited as an observer to a subsequent meeting to hear the views of the AQCCC.</p> <p>The newsletter is included with the Minutes. The PDF will be posted imminently, and will then be available at <a href="https://www.northconnex.com.au/">https://www.northconnex.com.au/</a></p>
3.0	<p><b>Environment Protection Licence (EPL) update</b></p> <p>Mr Tinsley reported that the Annual Report regarding the EPL had been submitted to the EPA. No feedback has yet been received.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Air quality – operational performance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exceedance events:</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Tinsley advised that exceedances of NO<sub>2</sub> had been recorded on 5 and 8 November at the ventilation outlet (not within the tunnel). The exceedances were reviewed by the independent air quality expert and found to be the result of an instrument fault. The instrument at fault has since been replaced.</p> <p>Mr Lovett advised that the report that analyses and assesses the root cause of the air quality exceedances will be placed on the NorthConnex website in due course.</p> <p><b>Monitoring concerns:</b></p> <p>Mr Lovett noted that the difficulties with <u>real-time</u> reporting for the ventilation outlet air quality remain ongoing. He confirmed that air quality data is being captured but remains unavailable on the project website on a live basis. The underlying concern</p>	<p>Update to be provided for Members once real time ventilation outlet air quality data becomes available.</p>

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>continues to relate to a project defect, resolution of which continues to be negotiated with the contractor.</p> <p><i>Key points of discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The characteristics of data peaks was discussed.</li> </ul>	
5.0	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>Members requested feedback as to whether the number of heavy vehicles using the Pacific Highway and Pennant Hills Road has decreased.</p> <p>Ms Shand advised that a 'traffic viewer' was in place on the Pacific Highway which indicated no increase in heavy vehicles using the road. The data did however reflect a decrease in light vehicles during the period of Covid shutdowns, which may lead to the perception of there being more heavy vehicles. The link to this viewer is public and can be accessed at (<a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/traffic-volume-viewer">Traffic Volume Viewer</a> (nsw.gov.au)).</p> <p>In relation to Pennant Hills Road, fines are being actively issued to heavy vehicles using the road, which appears to be effective as a deterrent. Noted however that oversize trucks and heavy vehicles carrying dangerous goods are not allowed to use the tunnels so remain on surface roads.</p> <p><b>The meeting schedule for 2022 was agreed as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 February 2022</li> <li>23 May 2022</li> <li>29 August 2022</li> <li>28 November 2022</li> </ul> <p>Members requested a return to site visits when the situation permitted.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 5:40pm. The Chair thanked Members for their participation.</p>	<p>Members to diarise meeting dates.</p> <p>Request for a return to site visits noted.</p>