

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	NorthConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (NCX AQCCC)	Reporting Period:	January 2020 - December 2020
Independent Chairperson:	Abigail Goldberg	Proponent Contact:	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. The Committee meets four times a year and is required to continue to operate for up to two years from the opening of NorthConnex.

The AQCCC includes four local community representatives. This is one more than the three representatives required by the project approval conditions, however it was considered and agreed by the nominations committee that the additional representative, who was appropriately qualified for the task, would assist in ensuring equitable representation for the northern and southern parts of the roadway. There are currently two representatives for the north, and two for the south.

The Committee also includes representatives from The Hills Shire Council, Parramatta City Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Ku-ring-gai Council. In addition, representatives from the NSW Roads and Maritime Services and NorthConnex Company Pty Ltd 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 COVID-19, the Committee was required to adapt its meeting processes, and three virtual meetings were hosted as well as one in-person meeting. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented the opportunity to have tunnel tours or on-site visits, which have been a core part of AQCCC activities to date. Nevertheless, community representatives and committee members remained actively engaged and provided positive inputs and contributions to the AQCCC throughout 2020.

2. CCC activities in 2020

One in-person and three virtual meetings were held in 2020. Agreed minutes of all meetings are published online at the NorthConnex website, www.northconnex.com.au. The minutes from each of the meetings held during 2020, noting dates and attendance, are included in this report as **Appendix 1**.

Key matters discussed at meetings in 2020 included:

- Alex Todoroski of Todoroski Air Sciences Pty Ltd attended the February meeting to discuss the Ambient Air Quality Independent Audit report, and answer Committee members questions regarding air quality.
- Condition E11 modification application to correct an error regarding air quality measures, which was subsequently approved by DPIE.

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- Condition E15 update regarding Schools State Environmental Planning Policy, where the proponent was required to assist Councils to develop an air quality assessment process for inclusion in a Development Control Plan or other appropriate planning instrument. Committee members were consulted, and provided input, in this regard.
- Condition E30 in relation to the Operation Environment Management Plan. Scott Tinsley, NorthConnex Project Co Environment Manager, presented to the Committee regarding this Condition requirements and the Plan, and noted it's significance as a pre-condition for the road opening. The Operation Management Plan was subsequently approved by DPIE.
- The operational website was reviewed, and comments provided by Committee members.

In addition, a public advertisement and formal recruitment process was undertaken during the year to fill two vacant community representative positions on the Committee. This process followed the guidelines for appointments in the CCC handbook published by DPIE.

The Committee also welcomed new representatives from Hornsby Shire Council and Kuring-gai Council due to changes to staffing at these organisations.

3. Key issues

The focus of 2020 has been on updating Committee members regarding preparations for the opening NorthConnex to the travelling public on Saturday 31 October 2020, with particular regard to the management of air quality for opening and subsequent operations. As such, a key focus has been on Committee input and education regarding operational documentation.

With this in mind, a number of presentations were made to 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, including responses to questions raised by community representatives on behalf of local residents.

The following table summarises issues addressed at the Committee:

Issue	Actions Taken	Status
Conditions of Approval update – E11 correction of an error regarding air quality measures.	Updated provided by Transport for NSW. The modification attracted substantial interest and response.	Transport for NSW undertook detailed analysis of submissions and provided responses to each issue.
Conditions of Approval update – E15 and Schools State Environmental Planning Policy	Draft guidelines had been prepared for local councils to assist them developing local air quality assessment	Local council representatives confirmed they had been consulted on and provided input to these guidelines.

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Issue	Actions Taken	Status
	process for areas adjacent to ventilation outlets.	
Conditions of Approval - E15.	AQCCC Members invited to review the Local Planning Air Quality Assessment Process Report which the project team has been required to develop in consultation with Councils.	Report finalised. Councils consulted were provided with the GIS files to load on to their GIS system.
Conditions of Approval – E30.	The project team provided an update on condition E30 regarding Operational Environmental Management Plans to be submitted to DPIE for approval.	Environmental Management Plans prepared, approved and published for operations phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality, noise and vibration • Climate change and energy use • Visual amenity and landscaping • Groundwater.
Operational website displaying real-time air quality monitoring data	Operational website underwent development, and extensive consultation with vendor to establish website page and air quality data feed. Committee members were invited to review and provide feedback on the website.	Air quality data web page for the display and communication of air quality monitoring results has been revised and became available online at northconnex.com.au from November 2020.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The focus for the next twelve months will be on NorthConnex tunnel operations as the road is now open. Over the period the Committee will:

- 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.

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The *preliminary* calendar of meetings for 2021 is as follows:

Meeting 1: 1 March 2021

- Site visit: operations centre
- Project progress report
- Update: air quality monitoring results
- Briefing: bi-annual Air Quality Audit results

Meeting 2: 25 May 2021

- Project progress report – briefing on traffic monitoring results eg trucks on Pennant Hills Road vs trucks in tunnel
- Update: air quality monitoring results
- Briefing: website use

Meeting 3: 24 August 2021


- Site visit: TBD
- Project progress report
- Update: air quality monitoring results
- Briefing: bi-annual Air Quality Audit results

Meeting 4: 23 November 2021

- Project progress report
- Update: air quality monitoring results
- Preliminary discussion: need to continue the ambient monitoring stations.

Committee members were provided with this preliminary calendar in November 2020, and encouraged to nominate additional discussion points and/or site visits 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:	14 January 2021

**NorthConnex Air
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**Appendix 1
Meeting Minutes**