

M4-M5 Link Tunnels Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (M4-M5 AQCCC)

Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	M4-M5 Link Tunnels Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (M4-M5 AQCCC)	Reporting Period:	March 2021 to July 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Abigail Goldberg	Proponent Contact:	Verity Turner (WestConnex / Transurban)

1. Executive Summary

WestConnex / Transurban established the M4-M5 Link Tunnels Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (AQCCC) in March 2021 in accordance with the project's Conditions of Approval. The committee is required to meet at least four times a year. The AQCCC will operate for at least two years after the project commences operations, or as otherwise approved or directed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in consultation with the Chair.

AQCCC members were appointed following a publicly advertised Expression of Interest (EOI) process. There are three local community representatives for the Haberfield area and two representatives for the St Peters area. While an equal number of representatives were sought for each area, an appropriate third applicant did not come forward for St Peters. The EOI remains open to the community.

A representative from the Traffic and Transport Planning division of the Inner West Council participates in AQCCC meetings.

Representatives from Transport for NSW, EPA and DPE attend AQCCC meetings as observers, while WestConnex / Transurban team members from the environment and planning, fire life safety and integration, community engagement, and operations and maintenance areas attend each meeting.

Abigail Goldberg was appointed in March 2021 as the independent chairperson for the AQCCC in consultation with DPE.

Dr Ian Longley, an independent air quality specialist from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) New Zealand, attends meetings as an independent advisor.

Seven meetings have been held from establishment of the committee (March 2021) up to July 2022.

2. AQCCC activities over last 12 months

• Number of meetings:

Five meetings were held in the first year of the AQCCC (2021) to enable discussion and resolution of key matters. These meetings took place on:

- **Meeting 1:** 2 March 2021 (online)
- **Meeting 2:** 9 March 2021 (online)
- **Meeting 3:** 22 June 2021 (hybrid: in person and online)

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- **Meeting 4:** 28 September 2021 (online)
- **Meeting 5:** 9 November 2021 (online).

Two meetings have been held up to July 2022:

- **Meeting 6:** 22 February 2022 (online)
- **Meeting 7:** 17 May 2022 (in person).

Minutes of each meeting are published on the project website, as well as being attached to this Annual Report as an Appendix.

- **Attendance at meetings:**

Attendance at meetings, which have been held both online and in-person, has been excellent. There is a very high level of engagement from community representatives, including Council, and the agenda has evolved over time to enable community concerns to be raised upfront.

Agency observers are consistent in their attendance, albeit that different representatives may be present.

- **Site visits:**

As the AQCCC commenced during the Covid pandemic and lockdown period, site visits have not been undertaken with the group as a whole. Nevertheless, site walks were undertaken with community representatives between meetings 6 and 7 so that specific local concerns, including maintenance of grounds, could be clarified on site.

In addition, a walk-through of the Motorway Operations Centre was undertaken during meeting 7 (17 May 2022).

- **Additional consultation activities related to the AQCCC:**

Community representatives liaise with the Chair as needed in between meetings should issues of concern arise. These matters are then taken up with the project team and discussed at meetings.

The Chair notes the support of the project team in resolving issues raised by community representatives, such as maintenance of grounds, which are not air quality matters and as such outside of the scope of the committee.

AQCCC members are kept informed by the project team regarding related consultation initiatives such as the Community Grants Program.

3. Key issues

The focus of the AQCCC to date has been on the establishment of the committee and undertaking committee business including receiving committee input on key matters such as the location of air quality monitoring stations and review of documents required by the project Conditions of Approval.

A number of emerging issues have also been raised and addressed.

The table below summarises key committee business undertaken as well as emerging issues raised by the AQCCC and project team members throughout the reporting period. Actions taken to respond to these are also outlined:

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Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<p>Issue 1 (meeting 1): traffic performance relative to pre-Covid levels.</p>	<p>Project team presented an update on traffic performance across the network at meeting 2.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>Issue 2 (meeting 1): location of air quality monitoring stations</p>	<p>Background information regarding air quality monitoring stations was provided ahead of meeting 2.</p> <p>Meetings 2 and 3 focused on AQCCC input regarding the project air quality monitoring stations.</p>	<p>Updates are provided at AQCCC meetings regarding data on air quality from the monitoring stations, as well as any emerging issues related to the monitoring stations.</p>
<p>Issue 3 (meeting 2): asbestos found at construction sites</p>	<p>The project team confirmed that asbestos had been found at construction sites but that asbestos removal had been undertaken strictly in line with environmental and work, health and safety guidelines.</p>	<p>The asbestos removal task has been completed.</p>
<p>Issue 4 (meeting 3): concerns regarding the double outlet at Haberfield and long term monitoring of air quality emissions</p>	<p>The project team provided an explanation of how the ventilation system is operated and how data is monitored. Monitoring data is available on a real-time basis on the project website, while exceedances are reported online.</p> <p>The EPA confirmed that monitoring and exceedances are closely tracked, and actioned when needed.</p> <p>The project team provided a demonstration of how exceedance reports work at meeting 4.</p>	<p>Air quality monitoring results remain core to the AQCCC agenda for each meeting.</p>
<p>Issue 5 (meeting 4): Draft Ambient Air Quality Goal Protocol</p>	<p>The Draft Ambient Air Quality Goal Protocol was provided ahead of meeting 4 and supported by the AQCCC with minor edits only.</p>	<p>Draft document was finalised including AQCCC comments</p>
<p>Issue 6 (meeting 4): artwork on Campbell Road Vent Facility</p>	<p>Artwork was presented to the community, including the background to the artist and her explanation of the work.</p>	<p>PDF's of the artwork were provided for AQCCC members</p>

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Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Issue 7 (meeting 5): concerns regarding timeline for the Haberfield compound and contractors parking on local streets	AQCCC advised on the timeline for the Haberfield compound. Parking on local streets actioned by project team members. Newsletter prepared and distributed to the wider community.	Issues to be monitored on an ongoing basis
Issue 8 (meeting 5): Draft Operational Air Quality Management Plan	The Draft Operational Air Quality Management Plan was provided ahead of meeting 5 and supported by the AQCCC subject to a number of edits and points of clarification.	Draft document was finalised including AQCCC comments
Issue 9 (meeting 5): graffiti on perspex panels	Graffiti investigated and actioned by project team.	Should such matters arrive inter-session members to email info@westconnex.com.au to ensure matters are addressed.
Issue 10 (meeting 6): ongoing concerns related to contractors parking on local streets and poor maintenance of grounds	Community representatives and project team members undertook a site walk to clarify the issues.	Project team members to clarify which group is responsible and take action as required.
Issue 11 (meeting 7): power outage at Ramsay Street air quality monitoring station.	Project team investigated and reported back on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implications of the data gap. - Investigations into how and why the problem occurred, as well as measures to be put in place to prevent such an issue recurring. 	The issue continues to be monitored.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The focus for the next twelve months will be on preparations for the project opening. Over the period the committee will:

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- Consider matters related to the project Conditions of Approval requiring consultation with the AQCCC
- Receive and discuss ongoing project updates
- Receive and discuss results of air quality monitoring
- Discuss emerging issues as put forward by community representatives and project team members
- Review and monitor management of emerging issues.

The calendar of meetings from July for the remainder of 2022 is as follows:

- Meeting 8: 19 July 2022 (online) (complete)
- Meeting 9: 22 November 2022 (online).

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	16 November 2022

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**Appendix
Meeting Minutes**