

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

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – Annual Report

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	M4-M5 Link Tunnels Air Quality Community Consultative Committee (M4-M5 AQCCC)	Reporting Period:	July 2022 to July 2023
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 and reporting to date has been largely in relation to project establishment.

This reporting period focuses on project commissioning and opening, with the tunnel having opened in January 2023. Meetings reflect the change in project status with a shift in emphasis on reporting as well as issues that have drawn the attention of CCC members during the period.

The AQCCC is required to operate for at least two years after the project has commenced operations, or as otherwise approved or directed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in consultation with the Chair.

2. Background

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.

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, and has remained in place since establishment.

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 to WestConnex / Transurban.

Eleven meetings were held from establishment of the committee (March 2021) up to July 2023.

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

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

3. CCC activities over last 12 months:

Four meetings were held over the reporting period. These meetings took place on:

- **Meeting 8:** 19 July 2022 (online)
- **Meeting 9:** 22 November 2022 (online)
- **Meeting 10:** 28 February 2023 (online)
- **Meeting 11:** 23 May 2023 (WestConnex Motorway Control Centre).

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 remained consistent over time in enabling community concerns to be raised upfront.

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

- **Site visit:**

Community, Council and agency representatives present at meeting #11 (23 May 2023) as well as the Independent Chair undertook a site visit of the motorway control room and ventilation facility hosted by WestConnex project team members and Fulton Hogan Egis staff.

Participants expressed thanks to the project team on conclusion of the site visit and tour for the way in which this assisted participants' understanding the 'back-of-house' facilities required by the motorway.

- **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 community activities such as those related to the opening of the tunnel.

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

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

4. Key issues

A number of emerging issues have been raised and addressed throughout the reporting period. These are outlined below:

Issue / opportunity	Actions taken	Next steps
<p>Issue 1: power outage resulting in loss of air quality data at one air quality monitoring station</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power outage was addressed as soon as it was identified and advised to AQCCC members at the first possible meeting • An independent air quality expert was engaged to investigate the data implications of the loss of air quality data • The independent expert reported that whilst missing two months of data at one of the sites is not ideal there is no likely significant effect on the veracity of any conclusions and analyses that can be made using the available data • WestConnex provided a report to AQCCC members acknowledging the seriousness of the failure in protocols and concerns community representatives expressed regarding both the gap in data and the failure of protocols • WestConnex reported on investigations into how and why the problem had occurred and a number of measures were put in place to prevent such an issue recurring, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hourly automated fault notification ○ early warning system for emerging issues ○ daily data reconciliation ○ weekly site inspection of the AQMS. 	<p>Community representatives observed at meeting #8 that the response provided was rigorous overall. It was noted that the incident had affected the community's trust and level of confidence in the project, however the reports as outlined at left had confirmed for community representatives that the matter had been taken in hand, reported honestly and appropriately addressed.</p> <p>The issue has been closed.</p>
<p>Issue / opportunity 2: project opening</p>	<p>The project opened in January 2023 with operations reportedly going 'relatively</p>	<p>Community representatives observed at meetings that the distribution of information</p>

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

Annual Report 2022 - 2023


	<p>smoothly with minor 'teething' issues only such as wayfinding and traffic 'hotspot challenges' from the outset all of which were addressed as required.</p> <p>A milestone was achieved in the unveiling of the plaque ceremony for the public artwork at the Campbell Road ventilation facility by local First Nations artist, Marilyn Russell.</p> <p>The control room was up-and-running from the start of operations and the water treatment plant has worked as planned.</p> <p>The link to the air quality project website went live from opening at www.linkt.com.au/using-tollroads/about-sydney-toll-roads/safety/sydney.</p>	<p>relating to the opening of the project had been 'terrific' and was much appreciated. No issues were raised at preliminary stages in relation to how air quality was being communicated.</p>
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5. Focus for next 12 months:

The scope of the AQCCC activities relate primarily to Condition of Approval E2 for the tunnel, viz:

Review and provide advice on the location of the air quality monitoring stations, operational environmental management plans and other operation stage documents, compliance tracking reporting, audit reports, or complaints as they relate to air quality.

As air quality monitoring stations are now in place and operational, operational environmental management plans and other operation stage documents have been prepared and approved, the forward role of the AQCCC will relate to ongoing operational matters such as compliance tracking reporting, audit reporting and monitoring of complaints as they relate to air quality.

Signature of chairperson:	
Date:	30 November 2023

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

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Appendix

Meeting Minutes

FINAL Minutes

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Tunnels AQCCC Meeting #8

Date	19/07/2022		
Time	6.00pm – 7.15pm		
Venue	Videoconference		
Independent Chair	Abigail Goldberg	Chair and Director	GoldbergBlaise
Attendees	Peter Bridge	Community representative	Haberfield
	Brian Smyth King	Community representative	Haberfield
	Karyn Hemming	Community representative	St Peters
	Alistair Wardrope	Community representative	St Peters
	Terry Chapman	Project Director	WestConnex
	Matthew Callander	Fire Life Safety and Integration	WestConnex
	Karina Wilson	Community Engagement Advisor	WestConnex
	Nick Francesconi	Environment and Planning Manager	WestConnex
	Kris Hincks	Operations and Maintenance	WestConnex
Peter Redwin	Head of Operations and Maintenance	WestConnex	
Kendall Banfield	Senior Transport Planner	Inner West Council	
Martin Howe	Environment Manager	ASBJV (Contractor)	
Courtney Moran	Senior Environment Officer	Transport for NSW (observer)	
Rob Sherry	Team Leader Compliance	DPE (observer)	
Julian Thompson	A/Director Regulatory Operations Metro	EPA (observer)	
Katherine Purdy	Operations Officer Regulatory Metro	EPA (observer)	
Guest presenter	Aleks Todorovski	Air Quality Consultant	Todorovski Air Sciences
Apologies	Steve O'Brien	Community representative	Haberfield
	Manod Wickramasinghe	Traffic and Transport Planning Manager	Inner West Council
	Dr Ian Longley	Independent Air Quality Specialist	NIWA NZ

Agenda Items		Action
1.0	<p>Welcome and actions from previous meeting:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed participants and noted apologies. She advised that the following actions from the previous meeting have been carried forward as agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping and local area maintenance coordination See Item 3.0 • Analysis of ambient air quality monitoring data – implications of power outage at Ramsay Street See Item 4.0 	
2.0	<p>Community items</p> <p>No additional items were raised by community representatives, noting that representatives had been consulted regarding the draft agenda.</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>3.0 Landscaping and local area maintenance coordination</p> <p>Kris Hinks presented slides including maps attributing maintenance responsibilities to Council, WestConnex and Transport for NSW for project-related surface locations. Kris also detailed the frequency of timing for inspections and maintenance activities.</p> <p>Kendall Banfield expressed his support of the allocations of responsibility. He noted that Council was struggling at present to keep up maintenance activities due to a combination of staff requiring sick-leave and unusually wet weather conditions.</p> <p>Community representatives thanked the WestConnex team for their efforts, and acknowledged that maintenance has improved at Haberfield locations.</p> <p>Community representatives sought clarity as to who to contact when maintenance issues arise. Agreed that the maintenance allocation maps would be placed online, ideally on websites for all three parties, and ideally linked. Kendall Banfield, Kris Hinks and Courtney Moran indicated that they were happy to be key contacts, however both the project and Council's websites offer a front-door for complaints if needed.</p> <p>Community representatives raised concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project site for worker parking on Parramatta Road between Bland and Alt Streets, where litter is frequently deposited that then blows out into community areas. Nick Francesconi and Martin Howe undertook to inspect this site this week. • Footpaths in Haberfield, which have not been repaired despite funding being provided for this. Kris Hincks advised that a Heads of Agreement with Council was in the process of being finalised to address this matter. Once finalised, the money for repairs will be transferred, enabling the footpath condition to be addressed. <p>The Chair thanked the project team for actioning these items, noting that they fall outside the scope of the AQCCC, but that no other forum for addressing such community concerns has been established.</p>	<p>WestConnex, Council and Transport for NSW to place maintenance allocation maps online, ideally linked.</p> <p>Kendall Banfield, Kris Hinks and Courtney Moran to be key contacts for community complaints, however both the project and Council's websites offer a front-door for complaints if needed.</p> <p>WestConnex to inspect the site of worker parking in relation to litter and general cleanliness.</p> <p>WestConnex and Council to progress finalisation of the Heads of Agreement that will enable funding to be transferred between the groups and footpaths to be repaired.</p>
<p>4.0 Analysis of ambient air quality monitoring data – implications of power outage at Ramsay Street</p> <p>Martin Howe introduced Aleks Todorovski, who confirmed his credentials as an independent air quality expert. Martin explained that Aleks had been engaged to investigate the data implications of the loss of two months of air quality data at the Ramsay Street Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS), as notified at the preceding meeting.</p> <p>Aleks presented a slide deck explaining his approach to the matter, noting also the potential for data substitutes. Overall Aleks reported that whilst missing two months of data at one of the sites is not ideal, there is no likely significant effect on the veracity of any conclusions and analyses that can be made using the available data.</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>Aleks' report (slide deck) regarding his investigations into and findings related to the data gap will be made public by being posted on the project website as part of the record of meeting proceedings.</p> <p>Matt Callander provided a report for participants as agreed at the preceding meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implications of the data gap have been addressed by Aleks Todorovski, as above. • Nevertheless, Matt reiterated the seriousness of the failure in protocols and acknowledged the concerns community representatives have expressed regarding both the gap in data and the failure of protocols. • He reported on investigations into how and why the problem occurred, advising that these have indicated that a combination of human error and administrative error, compounded by faults in communications between relative organisations, led to the issue. • Matt noted that a number of measures have been put in place to prevent such an issue recurring, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of an hourly automated fault notification process to provide early warning of any emerging issues as well as oversight of EcoTech's response. ○ Daily data reconciliation by EcoTech, monitored by the WestConnex team. • Nick Francesconi advised that weekly site inspections of the AQMS have also been introduced to mitigate against such an issue recurring. <p>Community representatives observed that the response provided was rigorous overall. It was repeated that the incident had affected the community's trust and level of confidence in the project, however the report as outlined above had confirmed for community representatives that the matter had been appropriately addressed.</p>	
<p>5.0 Overview of air quality complaints received</p> <p>Karina Wilson advised that no operational complaints regarding air quality had been received since the last meeting.</p> <p>She provided an update on a site visit by the Hon. Minister Ben Franklin, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, who had visited the Campbell Road ventilation facility artwork with the artist's daughter, Marilyn Russell. Community representatives observed that the artwork had improved the reflection of light to buildings facing it.</p>	
<p>6.0 Appointment of independent operational air quality monitoring auditor (paper provided inter-session)</p> <p>Kris Hincks confirmed the nomination of Northstar Air Quality, specifically Gary Graham, to undertake the role of independent operational air quality monitoring auditor in accordance with the Minister for Planning's M4-M5 Link Condition of Approval E37. He</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>noted that Gary's credentials and experience were suitable for the role, and that Gary had confirmed his independence.</p> <p>The Chair observed that she had queried why a single nominee had been provided. Kris advised that the availability of appropriately qualified and experienced, independent auditors was challenging, but that Gary provided the right skills as well as independence.</p> <p>AQCCC members acknowledged the receipt of the paperwork, including Gary's CV, provided inter-session as well as the small pool of appropriate auditors, and supported the proposed auditor. Consultation with the AQCCC was agreed to have been appropriately undertaken.</p>	
<p>7.0 Project update</p> <p>Nick Francesconi provided a project update, noting that the road pavement grinding had commenced to remove imperfections and line marking had also commenced. Mechanical and engineering works at Haberfield were well underway and nearing completion.</p> <p>Dismantling of acoustic sheds had commenced and was being progressed without issue.</p>	
<p>8.0 Administrative items:</p> <p>The meeting schedule going forward was confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4, Meeting 9: 8 November 2022 	
<p>9.0 Questions / Other business</p> <p>Martin Howe advised that planned maintenance of the AQMS was scheduled for Thursday 21 July.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Nick Francesconi for his efforts on behalf of the AQCCC, as well as for always being responsive to matters raised. Nick advised that Verity Turner would be returning from maternity leave this month.</p>	
<p>10.0 Thanks and close</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their participation. The meeting closed at 7:15pm.</p>	

Minutes

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Tunnels AQCCC Meeting #9

Date	22/11/2022			
Time	6.30pm – 7.05pm			
Venue	Videoconference			
Chair	Abigail Goldberg	Chair and Director	GoldbergBlaise	
Invitees	Peter Bridge Karyn Hemming Alistair Wardrope	Community representative Community representative Community representative	Haberfield St Peters St Peters	
	Terry Chapman Matthew Callander Karina Wilson Verity Turner Peter Redwin Kris Hinks	Project Director Fire Life Safety and Integration Community Engagement Advisor Environment and Planning Manager Head of Operations Operational Environmental Management Plan Specialist	WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex	
	Dr Ian Longley	Independent Air Quality Specialist	NIWA NZ	
	Courtney Moran	Senior Environment Officer	Transport for NSW	
	Martin Howe Ashkun Jalili	Environment and Sustainability Manager Engineering Manager	ASBJV (Contractor) ASBJV (Contractor)	
	Kendall Banfield	Senior Transport Planner	Inner West Council	
	Julian Thompson	Manager, Regulatory Operations	EPA	
	Rob Sherry	Team Leader Compliance	DPE	
	Apologies	Brian Smyth King Steve O'Brien Manod Wickramasinghe	Community representative Community representative Traffic and Transport Planning Manager	Haberfield Haberfield Inner West Council

Agenda Items	Responsibility
<p>1.0 Welcome and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>The Chair welcomed participants and made an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were recorded, and it was noted that no new conflicts of interest were apparent.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the following action from the previous meeting had been carried forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping and local area maintenance Community representatives noted the overall improvement in landscaping and local area maintenance. <p>The project team's attention was drawn ahead of the meeting to a narrow strip of land at the rear of the Parramatta Road Ventilation facility which has not been maintained. Verity Turner and Karina Wilson advised that the strip has been identified as belonging to Council, and that the matter has been escalated to TfNSW for discussion with Council. Kendall Banfield proposed that he would in addition take the matter up within Council for action. Notwithstanding</p>	<p>Inner West Council to action maintenance of the strip of land at the rear of the Parramatta Road Ventilation facility.</p>

Agenda Items	Responsibility
<p>this, the project team has agreed to maintain the strip in the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>2.0 Community items</p> <p>Noted that an article had been transmitted to community representatives by Brian Smyth King inter-session, viz: 'Silent killer of our brain': Dementia experts warn about road pollution https://www.smh.com.au/national/silent-killer-of-our-brain-dementia-experts-warn-about-road-pollution-20220908-p5bgbv.html?btis</p> <p>Matthew Callander advised that he had reviewed the article and by way of reply presented an analysis of data from the project's monitoring stations alongside the EPA's background monitoring stations mentioned in the article. The analysis indicated that all monitoring stations (which use identical equipment) demonstrate a recording of similar trends, with comparable peaks and troughs in NO₂, PM2.5 and PM10 measurements.</p> <p>The overall finding of this analysis is that the location of the project monitoring stations is appropriate, and that the data being recorded is providing the information needed for measuring and monitoring air quality going forward.</p> <p>Discussion referenced demolition works that have been underway in the vicinity of Wattle Street, and community representatives queried the impact of dust resulting from the demolition. The project team advised that the monitoring stations may detect some of this dust with raised PM10 measurements. However, noting recent windy weather, dust was coming from many sources across the city and therefore it would be difficult to isolate the impact of individual sites.</p> <p>It was also queried whether the data as analysed indicated levels of dust particles below or in the vicinity of acceptable maximum levels. Matthew advised that all data was well below acceptable maximum levels. The national pollution limits/levels have been added to the slides.</p> <p>Community representatives thanked Matthew for having undertaken this review and noted that it would be helpful if it could be posted online. The project team advised that the presentation material would be made publicly available along with the Minutes for the meeting, as is standard practice for the AQCCC.</p>	
<p>3.0 Community update including overview of air quality complaints received</p> <p>Karina Wilson provided information regarding a community open day that will be held on Sunday 18 December 2022, as well community pop-up information stalls that are being held in various locations.</p> <p>Karina advised of two complaints related to air quality (dust) since the previous meeting, both of which have been investigated and resolved, with only one complaint found to be related to the project.</p>	

Agenda Items	Responsibility
<p>4.0 Project update</p> <p>By way of update, Terry Chapman advised that the project was now in commissioning mode, with current work within the tunnels focusing on cleaning, testing of safety systems and testing of emergency procedures.</p>	
<p>5.0 Administrative items</p> <p>Verity noted that as the project was now in commissioning mode with the tunnel opening anticipated for the first quarter of 2023, administrative matters put to the AQCCC would shift from the review and endorsement of plans related to operations to monitoring of actual operational air quality as data becomes available.</p> <p>The first meeting of 2023 will be held on 21 or 28 February. Community representatives are asked to indicate their preference in this regard. Noted that Brian Smyth King had proposed that a workshop be held at this meeting to consider other ways of communicating and disseminating information regarding air quality (e.g. use of infographics).</p> <p>The project team are in support of this suggestion, and will also provide an update on the project opening at this time, as well as guidance on locating air quality data on the project website.</p>	<p>Community members to advise the Chair of any preferences re the proposed meeting dates of 21 or 28 February 2023.</p> <p>Project team to arrange a workshop for this meeting re ways of communicating and disseminating information on air quality. An update on project opening also to be provided as well as guidance on locating air quality data on the project website.</p>
<p>6.0 Questions / Other business</p> <p>No further questions were raised and no other business put forward for discussion.</p>	
<p>7.0 Thanks and close</p> <p>The Chair thanked participants for their inputs this year, and noted that a milestone has been achieved with the shift to commissioning of the project in preparation for opening of the tunnels. The business of the AQCCC will transition in response to this progress.</p> <p>As above, next meeting will be 21 or 28 February 2023.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 7:05pm.</p>	

Minutes

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Tunnels AQCCC Meeting #10

Date	28/02/2023		
Time	6.30pm – 7.15pm		
Venue	Videoconference		
Independent Chair	Abigail Goldberg	Chair and Director	GoldbergBlaise
Invitees	Peter Bridge Steve O'Brien Alistair Wardrope	Community representative Community representative Community representative	Haberfield Haberfield St Peters
	Scott Hodder Matthew Callander Helena Orel Verity Turner Peter Redwin Kris Hinks	Project Director Fire Life Safety and Integration Senior Communications Manager Environment and Planning Manager Head of Operations Operational Environmental Management Plan Specialist	WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex
	Dr Ian Longley	Independent Air Quality Specialist	NIWA NZ
	Courtney Moran	Senior Environment Officer	Transport for NSW
	Manod Wickramasinghe	Traffic and Transport Planning Manager	Inner West Council
	Stuart Clark	Senior Operations Officer	EPA
	Justin Hazelbrook	HSEQS Manager	Fulton Hogan Egis
	Apologies	Brian Smyth King Karyn Hemming Kendall Banfield Rob Sherry	Community representative Community representative Traffic and Transport Planning Manager Team Leader Compliance

Agenda Items	Action
<p>1.0 Welcome, actions from previous meeting, introductions and apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed participants and put forward an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>The Chair advised that actions from the previous meeting had been carried forward for discussion along with queries from community members provided ahead of the meeting. The order of the Agenda has been revised for this meeting to enable an update on the project opening to be presented upfront.</p> <p>Scott Hodder, taking over as Project Director, was introduced to the group.</p> <p>Disclosures of interest</p> <p>Alistair Wardrope advised inter-session that his company, Amarna Energy, had recently been engaged to provide services to Acciona Engineering. He noted Acciona Engineering are a separate entity to</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>the ASBJV and that his company had been engaged on a different project to WestConnex. The Chair advised that she appreciated the disclosure but did not consider this a conflict of interest for the community representative role on the AQCCC. Likewise, Verity Turner advised that the project team did not consider this to be a conflict of interest.</p>	
<p>2.0 Project update</p> <p>Scott Hodder presented slides including a video illustrating progress on the project since commencement and up to opening six weeks ago (20 January 2023). Scott advised that operations were going relatively smoothly so far with minor ‘teething’ issues such as wayfinding and traffic ‘hotspot’ challenges being addressed as required.</p> <p>Scott commented on the milestone achieved by the unveiling of the plaque ceremony for the public artwork at the Campbell Road ventilation facility by local First Nations artist, Marilyn Russell.</p> <p>Peter Redwin advised that the control room was up-and-running. He noted that the water treatment plant was working as planned.</p>	
<p>3.0 Community update</p> <p>Helena Orel provided an update on air quality complaints received, of which there were four from community members, all of which have been addressed.</p> <p>It was noted that there was an exceedance of total solids at the Campbell Road ventilation outlet on the day of opening. The matter has been reported and addressed. Stuart Clark of the EPA confirmed receipt of the requisite report and action taken.</p> <p>Matthew Callander advised that in effect only one week of verified data was available at this time as the data required four weeks to be verified. The data that is available broadly indicates actuals that correspond to assumptions, however it is noted that there is little data to work off at this stage. Matthew observed that as more data was received, more detailed analysis would become possible.</p> <p>Verity Turner advised that Ian Longley would be asked to undertake an independent data analysis exercise once at least six months of data is available. This exercise will be the same or similar to analyses undertaken following the opening of related roads eg M4.</p> <p>Discussion referenced how the opening of the road was being experienced by community representatives. Representatives observed that while they were aware of some traffic hotspots no other noticeable issues had become apparent so far. It was noted that parking on local streets had become easier, apparently because of contractors no longer taking up spaces.</p> <p>Council observed that they were aware of wayfinding issues, however no community complaints had been received.</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>4.0 Community items</p> <p>Helena Orel provided a detailed presentation on the channels and methods for communicating air quality information to the community. Pop-up information stalls at local shopping centres, fact sheets and information on the M8 project website (northbound and southbound routes) were all addressed, among other initiatives.</p> <p>The link to the air quality project website is www.linkt.com.au/using-toll-roads/about-sydney-toll-roads/safety/sydney.</p> <p>Kris Hinks noted that there was not a specific M4-M5 Link webpage but all the information was provided in the WestConnex M4 and WestConnex M8 links within the weblink above. He demonstrated what air quality information is online, and how this can be filtered to tailor outputs.</p> <p>Community representatives observed that the distribution of information had been 'terrific' and was much appreciated. No issues were raised at this stage in relation to how air quality is being communicated.</p>	
<p>5.0 Administrative items</p> <p>It is proposed that the second meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday evening 23 May on site (6 or 6:30pm). Visits to the control room and ventilation facility are being considered. Further information will be provided closer to the time. Hybrid meeting options will be available for those not able to attend in person.</p>	<p>The Chair will provide updates on the timing, location and logistics for the May meeting.</p>
<p>6.0 Questions / Other business</p> <p>No further questions were raised and no other business put forward for discussion.</p>	
<p>7.0 Thanks and close</p> <p>The Chair thanked participants for their participation. As above, next meeting will be 23 May 2023.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 7:15pm.</p>	

Minutes

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Tunnels AQCCC Meeting #11

Date	23/05/2023			
Time	6.00pm – 6:51pm			
Venue	WestConnex Motorway Control Centre: 33 Burrows Road, St Peters and videoconference			
Independent Chair	Abigail Goldberg	Chair and Director	GoldbergBlaise	
Invitees	Brian Smyth King Steve O'Brien Alistair Wardrope	Community representative Community representative Community representative	Haberfield Haberfield St Peters (<i>online</i>)	
	Manod Wickramasinghe Sarah Guan	Traffic and Transport Planning Manager Graduate Strategic Transport Planner	Inner West Council Inner West Council	
	Matthew Callander Verity Turner Peter Redwin Kris Hinks Desiree Mousavi-Azizi	Fire Life Safety and Integration Environment and Planning Manager Head of Operations OEMP Specialist Snr Communications and Engagement	WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex WestConnex (<i>online</i>)	
	Justin Hazelbrook	HSEQS Manager	Fulton Hogan Egis	
	Dr Ian Longley	Independent Air Quality Specialist	NIWA NZ (<i>online</i>)	
	Courtney Moran	Senior Environment Officer	Transport for NSW (<i>online</i>)	
	Rob Sherry	Team Leader Compliance	DPE	
	Aleksandra Young	Unit Head, Regulatory Operations Metropolitan	EPA (<i>online</i>)	
	Apologies	Peter Bridge Karyn Hemming Kendall Banfield Scott Hodder	Community representative Community representative Senior Transport Manager Project Director	Haberfield St Peters Inner West Council WestConnex

Agenda Items	Action
<p>1.0 Welcome and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>The Chair welcomed participants and put forward an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>As no comments had been received on the Minutes from meeting 10 and associated action, these were confirmed and closed.</p> <p>Disclosures of interest</p> <p>No disclosures of interest were advised.</p>	
<p>2.0 Community update</p> <p>No community matters were raised.</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>3.0 Project and air quality update</p> <p><u>Project update</u></p> <p>Peter Redwin advised that overall the opening of the motorway is considered to have resulted in a successful addition to the WestConnex network. Significant changes to commuter habits have been observed for a large number of commuters, and forecasts for usage have been exceeded.</p> <p>Peter noted that even though the motorway is new, maintenance operations are already required and two nights of maintenance are in progress this week.</p> <p>Peter observed that, while anticipated, wayfinding was an issue for more commuters than expected at the outset. This has since been addressed by improving signage. Desiree Mousavi-Azizi also noted that driver animations have been provided online to assist with route planning and wayfinding. Moreover, as commuters are now repeating the same route, they are becoming more familiar with wayfinding.</p> <p>Peter advised that joins ('stubs') to the Rozelle Interchange network are now beginning to be opened up. This is anticipated to result in spikes in air quality in the next 2 – 3 months as air moves through the tunnels, bringing construction dust into the operating tunnels.</p> <p><u>Air quality update</u></p> <p>Desiree advised that no complaints regarding air quality had been received in the preceding reporting period. She observed that the project construction sites are now in the final stages of being handed back.</p> <p>Kris Hinks reported on one recorded exceedance of NO₂ at the Campbell Road Ventilation Outlet. On investigation the exceedance was found to have been caused by a faulty air quality analyser, which has since been rectified.</p> <p>Matt Callander advised that once 6 months of data subsequent to opening of the motorway is available, Dr Ian Longley would assess air quality outcomes focusing on air quality in tunnels as well as impacts on ambient sites. The same exercise was undertaken for M4 East, which confirmed improvements to air quality at the surface level.</p> <p>Preliminary results of this analysis are expected to be available for the Q3 meeting of the AQCCC (September).</p> <p>Discussion ensued where community members raised questions regarding visible emissions in the tunnels. In this regard, project team members advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction dust remains visible to drivers in the tunnel. These particles are relatively large compared to particulate matter (PM) from vehicle emissions and would have been stirred up by maintenance activities the preceding night. • Real time reporting was checked and it was confirmed that there was indeed a spike in dust levels following maintenance activities. 	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>Discussion continued regarding the use of ventilation fans, and whether these were either increased when dust was elevated, or subject at times to cost cutting initiatives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team members advised that fan usage was not increased for the level of dust presently being experienced unless further dilution was required to prevent a breach of the air quality limits. • With regard to the question about cost cutting, the ventilation system is operated to meet all air quality limits, goals and requirements within the tunnel and outside of the tunnel. The system automatically responds to the changes in air quality within the tunnels to meet required air quality limits. • Over time the construction dust will dissipate. In the interim it is monitored as well as regulated in accordance with the conditions of approval. <p>Further discussion ensued regarding ways of minimising the construction dust?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team members advised that the tunnels have been washed repeatedly and that additional deluge testing to that required has also been undertaken to assist with dust removal. • Sweepers regularly clean the tunnels, and maintenance such as that currently underway includes clearing of drains / leaves and the like so that dust can dissipate. <p>A question was raised regarding the temperature in the tunnel, and whether this was consistent over time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that over time the temperature in the tunnels becomes warmer and more consistent due to the tunnel walls and ceiling absorbing heat over time. 	
<p>6.0 Other business</p> <p>Forward meeting dates were proposed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting #12: Tuesday 26 September 2023 (in person / hybrid) • Meeting #13: Tuesday 28 November 2023 (online) <p>Members to advise the Chair of any concerns regarding the forward calendar.</p> <p>A final question not related to air quality was put to Council by the community regarding the state of work around the Haberfield stack. Council undertook to respond directly to community representatives prior to EOFY.</p>	<p>Members to advise the Chair of any concerns regarding the forward calendar.</p>
<p>7.0 Thanks and close</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their participation. As above, next meeting will be 26 September 2023.</p>	

Agenda Items	Action
<p>The meeting was closed at 6:51pm. Community, Council and agency representatives who were present at the meeting as well as the Independent Chair proceeded to a site visit of the motorway control room and ventilation facility hosted by WestConnex project team members and Fulton Hogan Egis staff.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed by participants to the project team on conclusion of the site visit and tour, which was considered very informative and a helpful way of understanding the 'back-of-house' facilities required by the motorway.</p>	