



DOC21/744807-8

Ms Emily Treeby
Principal Council Officer
Upper House Committees - Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Treeby

I refer to your email dated 11 October 2021 regarding the Public Works Committee on the 27 September 2021 examine the Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

I note that on behalf of the Public Works Committee you have sought the following:

- any transcript corrections
- answers to questions on notice directed to your organisation (if applicable)
- answers to supplementary questions
- any additional information you wish to provide to the committee.

Please accept this submission on behalf of Ms Hanemann and myself.

We seek to make no further corrections to the hearing transcript or further submissions.

Please find attached to this letter responses to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions for the Committee's attention.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

STEVE BEAMAN PSM
Executive Director Regulatory Operations
NSW Environment Protection Authority

Att. EPA answers to supplementary questions and questions on notice

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Questions on Notice

Question 1

Ms HANEMANN: *That is correct. It is the latter. They have got their real-time monitoring and there is a requirement, both in the conditions of approval and also in the licence, for them to actually report that through to us. So they report those exceedances to the department of planning, to NSW Health and to the EPA. The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Real-time reporting—like, within 24 hours or 12 hours? Ms HANEMANN: I cannot recall what the time is but it is a short period of time; that is correct, The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Will you take that on notice and just let us know how quickly they report that?*

EPA Response

All new tunnels licenced by the EPA have continuous (real time) emissions monitoring. The licensee must immediately notify the EPA if the results of monitoring show that any of the ventilation outlets concentration limits, permitted by the environment protection licence, are exceeded. Notifications must be made by telephoning the EPA's Environment Line (131 555). The conditions of approval require the tunnel operators to also notify the Department of Planning and NSW Health.

Question 2

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: *I have two more questions on stacks because it is a real big issue of concern anywhere they are. The transparency of that data and the transparency for the community about what is going on out of their stack, do you want to comment on that? Ms HANEMANN: My understanding is that monitoring data is available to the community.*

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: *Live on a website, or do they have to make an application to get that? Ms HANEMANN: I am not aware if it is live. I am not sure if my planning colleagues could advise on that.*

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: *Would you take that on notice? Ms HANEMANN: Yes. We can definitely take that on notice.*

EPA Response

Under the conditions of approval for new motorway tunnels, results of real-time monitoring (update hourly) and relevant meteorological data must be provided on the website in an easy to interpret format.

For example, results of monitoring are provided on the WestConnex website at <https://www.linkt.com.au/using-toll-roads/about-sydney-toll-roads/westconnex-m8/tunnel-air-quality/sydney>.

This data is only considered preliminary until a quality assurance check has been undertaken by an accredited person or organisation.

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, environment protection licence holders that are required under their licence to undertake pollution monitoring must make those results publicly available within 14 days of obtaining the results. The licensee must make those monitoring results available on their website, if the holder maintains one, or provide a copy of any monitoring data that relates to pollution to any person who requests the data at no charge.