

Memo to Christine Marsden, ICLR, Lane Cove Tunnel Project CCLG3

**PROVISION FOR FUTURE FILTRATION
of the LANE COVE TUNNEL:
(non)-compliance with Minister's Condition 153**

We, along with most of our community, are deeply concerned about the potential health impacts of LCT emissions, not least from the Eastern Ventilation Stack in Marden Street, Artarmon. We also note that the value and amenity of nearby homes and properties is detrimentally affected by the stack, both because of its scale and because it provides a constant visual reminder of the health fears it generates.

In the event that the toxic plume from the stack causes community health problems, **Minister's Condition of Approval 153 *should*** have provided an important safeguard for future generations. MCoA 153 states:

The tunnel shall be designed and constructed so as to make provision for future installation of an appropriate pollution control system to treat air emissions from the tunnel as may be required by the Director-General. The Proponent shall provide evidence to this effect during the design and construction phases to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

As members of CCLG3 we have sought reassurance, but received none, that Condition 153 of the Minister's Conditions of Approval has been complied with in any meaningful manner whatsoever.

1. We believe the Community Liaison Groups have the authority to monitor compliance with Condition 153. MCoA Condition 14 states:

The Proponent shall allow the [Community Liaison] Group(s) to monitor compliance with these conditions of approval.

2. During the period of consultation on the design of the Eastern Ventilation Station, members of CCLG3 queried a number of times how the design incorporates provision for future filtration. Thiess John Holland responded that any future filtration equipment would be located below ground underneath the station, as no space was available in the proposed floor areas.
3. We note that the AQCCC also raised this question (AQCCC meeting, 4 November 2004, minute item 1.8), receiving a similar answer.
4. At the November 2005 CCLG3 meeting, community representatives again asked Thiess John Holland **how** the design complies with Condition 153, and **what** provision has been made for future filtration. The written response from TJH was entirely uninformative: "*Buildings have to comply with MCoA 153 and do provide for future installation of filtration. Design has been signed off by Director General to this effect.*"
5. We note the following exchange, again most uninformative, minuted at the November 2005 AQCCC meeting:

RK queried if there was provision for filtration to be installed below ground. IH

responded that the ventilation stations are designed so that filtration could be installed at a later date.

6. By February 2006, the stack had been largely built, with the entire foundation space below the ventilation station full of deep driven piles. **Clearly there was no possible space for filtration equipment in the underground location previously advised to CCLG3.** We were advised there would be a "tunnelling solution" when we pointed out the deep piling under the building. We took this to mean an underground chamber was proposed to and from which a tunnel would be built to connect into the ventilation building, but it is difficult to see how this solution could be feasible given the extent of the underground piling.
7. At a recent meeting of CCLG3, we again asked Thiess John Holland to explain **how** the design complies with Condition 153 and **what** provision exists within the design for future filtration.

The extraordinary response from Sue Netterfield – given that construction of the chimney was virtually complete - was that **the AQCCC had yet to decide how the design incorporates future filtration**; and that the question is beyond of the scope of the CCLG3.

8. Thiess John Holland held a public information session on Monday 27 February 2006, inviting residents to ask questions about the design of the Eastern Ventilation Station. Some of the many questions concerned where future filtration equipment might be located.

TJH's response was incoherent.

This strongly suggests, once again, the likelihood that the project has been designed and constructed with **no** clear provision, even in high-level conceptual terms, for possible future filtration, despite Condition 153.

We ask you as ICLR to do everything in your power to:

- ascertain exactly what provision has been made in the design and construction of the project for future installation of an appropriate pollution control system to treat air emissions from the tunnel;
- seek a letter of reassurance from the Minister that the tunnel has indeed been designed and constructed so as to make provision for future installation of an appropriate pollution control system to treat air emissions; and
- table written evidence to the CCLG3, including concept plans and minutes of relevant meetings, to demonstrate **how** the design provides for future filtration.

Stewart Begg, Community Representative
Ron Gornall, Community Representative
Rennie Logan, Business Representative
Glenda McSorley, Community Representative
Sonia Powell, Community Representative

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