

**Submission
No 39**

INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE SYDNEY BASIN

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Name: Ms Clover Moore
Position: Lord Mayor
Telephone:
Date Received: 28/09/2006

Subject:

Summary



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE MP

RECEIVED

28 AUG 2006

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The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

24 AUG 2006

Dear Director

Inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution in the Sydney Basin

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the inquiry being conducted by the NSW Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No 2.

The City of Sydney is committed to undertaking and supporting action to improve air quality within the City. The City is currently developing an Environmental Management Plan and is committed to developing a comprehensive air quality strategy that includes monitoring and emissions reduction projects.

Adequate monitoring is a critical aspect of any strategy to improve air quality. It is therefore essential that comprehensive air quality monitoring is returned to Sydney's CBD.

Vehicle emissions have a major detrimental impact on air quality in the Sydney Basin. The lack of comprehensive alternative transport options increases the reliance on private motor vehicles. In addition to direct impacts on air quality, car dependence is associated with reduced opportunities for incidental exercise, contributing to the high incidence of lifestyle diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease and depression.

These impacts must be reduced by the development of an integrated network of public transport, including buses, light rail and heavy rail. The system must incorporate convenient interchanging and good connections to pedestrian and cycle networks. There is also a need for integrated fares and ticketing, and a co-ordination authority to operate the system without competing modal interests.

The City of Sydney is developing an integrated transport strategy that identifies the best mode for different transport needs. The strategy will include cycle and pedestrian facilities, and consider rail and bus modes that are managed by the NSW Government.

Road tunnels, such as the Cross City Tunnel and the Eastern Distributor, also contribute to a degradation of air quality. Both the Cross City Tunnel and the Eastern Distributor use ventilation stacks to discharge emissions from the tunnel. While ventilation stacks may improve tunnel air quality, they release emissions into the surrounding atmosphere.

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The City of Sydney is an active member of the Cross City Tunnel Air Quality Community Consultative Committee and is currently drafting planning requirements on the impact of development in relation to dispersal of stack emissions.

Although the Ministerial Conditions of Approval for the Cross City Tunnel forbid portal emissions except in extraordinary circumstances, portal emissions still occur outside these permitted circumstances.

Portal emissions affect nearby residents. Residents are concerned about the eastern portal of the Cross City Tunnel, particularly with its close proximity to the Altair building, which was designed for natural cross ventilation and built above the eastern portal site before the tunnel was approved.

In-tunnel filtration would dramatically decrease the risk of adverse health impacts due to emissions from portals and ventilation stacks.

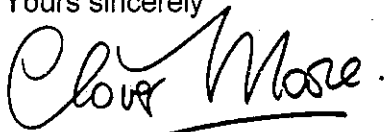
Tunnel filtration is in use in Norway, Japan and Korea, where electrostatic precipitator technology is used to remove 90 to 95 per cent of particulate matter in tunnel exhaust. In Norway's Laerdal tunnel, technology has been installed to remove NO₂, but not other oxides of nitrogen.

A report on Norway's Drammen Tunnel indicates that electrostatic precipitators remove more than 90 per cent of particles down to 0.3 microns and more than 95 per cent of particles over 1 micron. The report concludes that electrostatic precipitators can function as an integral part of tunnel ventilation and reduce costs.

Pollution filtration in Sydney's tunnels is essential. It is a matter of best practice and precaution for protecting the health and safety of Sydney residents. The Government should use all opportunities to reduce air pollution.

Sydney's existing and future road tunnels should be fitted with the best available technology to filter tunnel vehicle pollution. Their planning and construction must be overseen by a single government transport body that is able to prioritise safe and sustainable public transport in built-up urban areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Clover Moore MP
Lord Mayor of Sydney