

Writing a submission

Submissions are addressed to:
The Director General, Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Inquiries can be made to Caitlin Bennett, Major Infrastructure Assessment, Ph 9228 6197.

'I wish to make a submission regarding the RTA proposal to modify the approval conditions for the M5 East tunnel to permit partial portal emissions and a trial of filtration technology.'

Possible points to raise:

When writing your submission you may like to consider:

- The RTA proposal suggests that the 'filtration trial will help reduce what comes out of the Bexley North portal, however the portal emissions are planned to commence immediately and the filtration will not be operational for at least 12 months.' There is no undertaking that the filtration unit will be kept operating after the one year trial.
- Extra exposure to pollution.
The portal emissions will cause a permanent increase in pollution near the portals. Besides increasing asthma, heart problems and eye complaints, diesel exhaust is known to cause cancer, including lung cancer.
If you were one of the people affected by the portal emissions between September 2003 and April 2004, say so and give details. These emissions were 1/5 what is possible under the RTA proposal.
- Effects on children's health.
If you have children who are suffering from asthma, frequent colds and chest complaints, difficulty in throwing off infections, then tell the Department of Planning of your concerns about the impact of the extra portal emissions on top of the pollution you already receive from Bexley Road and the M5. If you regularly get exhaust smells or increased dust in your home, mention this.
- The government's failure to keep its promise about no portal emissions.
If you have bought a home since December 1997, then you bought it on the understanding that portal emissions were not permitted, except if there was a dangerous emergency in the tunnel. Emissions were not permitted for 'operational' purposes, such as traffic congestion and bad air quality in the tunnel, which was to be controlled by the use of 'traffic management' (closing lanes etc). Point out that local pollution is already bad because of the congestion on the motorway and that you demand a property buyback if the project proceeds in its current form.
- The proposed 'filtration trial'.
The filtration proposed is a very small unit that will only reduce pollution out of the Bexley North portal by about 1/3. This will do little to reduce the impact on local residents and yet it will cost \$40 to \$45 million, of which less than half is spent on the filtration equipment.

What you could ask for or demand:

- That the project not proceed unless it can be shown that the conditions around the portals will be improved rather than made worse.
- That no portal emissions be permitted unless all of the emissions are filtered to the greatest degree practical and the cleaned air is blown up into the air, rather than along the ground, to provide extra safety.
- That there is extensive and enforceable supervision of the operation of the filter systems and any possible health risks.
- That a generous and genuine property value guarantee (house buy-back) is provided as a protection for residents.

Ask for a reply.

Sign and print your name.

Date your submission.