

Meeting Minutes

WestConnex M4-M8 Link AQCCC Meeting #16

Date	10/09/2024		
Time	6pm		
Venue	WestConnex Motorway Control Centre, Burrows Road, St Peters (Members attending via videoconference)		
Chair	Ross Hornsey	Chair and Director	Ethos Urban
Participants	Alistair Wardrope	Community representative	St Peters
	Steve O'Brien	Community representative	St Peters
	Matthew Callander	Fire Life Safety and Integration	WestConnex
	Kris Hinks	OEMP Specialist	WestConnex
	Genevieve Neich	Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor	WestConnex
	Ralf Schramm	Commissioning and Integration Director	WestConnex
	Dr Ian Longley	Independent Air Quality Specialist	NIWA NZ
	Christine Hodgkiss	Director, Environment and Sustainability, Eastern Harbour and Central River	TfNSW
	Susannah Moberly	Director Precinct Delivery Inner West, Eastern Sydney Project Office	TfNSW
	Kendall Banfield	Senior Transport Planner	Inner West Council
	Julian Thompson	Operations Manager	EPA (Observer)
	Rob Sherry	Team Leader Compliance	DPHI (Observer)
Apologies	Brian Smyth King	Community representative	Haberfield
	Peter Bridge	Community representative	Haberfield
	Scott Hodder	Program Director Major Projects NSW	WestConnex

Agenda Items		Action
1.0	Welcome, introduction to the new Chair, declarations of interest, actions from previous meeting	
	<p>The Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country invited any declarations of interest from participants – none were offered. Noted that minutes from the previous meeting were distributed inter-session and, with no comments received, had been accepted. Noted that there were no outstanding actions carried over from the previous meeting for consideration. Advised that Genevieve Neich would be replacing Verity Turner as the primary contact coordinating and managing the AQCCC on behalf of WestConnex going forward. 	None
3.0	Air quality items raised by community members	
	<p>The Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted and confirmed there were no air quality related items raised by community members for discussion. 	None

Agenda Items	Action
4.0 Updates from the project team	
<p>The Chair invited the WestConnex team to provide the meeting with an:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of air quality complaints since last meeting • Update on air quality monitoring stations. • Update on M4-M8 Link. <p>The WestConnex team provided a presentation, advising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been no air quality complaints since the last AQCCC meeting. • There had been no air quality exceedances recorded since the last AQCCC meeting. • To enhance community understanding of the air quality monitoring performance, the WestConnex team are preparing a Fact Sheet for community members that summarises air quality data for the preceding month. • Operations and maintenance activities carried out since the last meeting, including an assessment that found ventilation fans at Paramatta Road Ventilation Facility (PRVF) and Campbell Road Ventilation Facility (CRVF) were not operating correctly due to incorrect control settings, leading to excessive fan vibration and requiring the replacement of one fan in CRVF. These issues have now been resolved with extensive testing undertaken on all exhaust fans to ensure the issue is not replicated or repeated in the future. 	None.
4.0 Presentation by Dr Ian Longley	
<p>The WestConnex team invited Dr Ian Longley, the independent air quality specialist appointed to the project, to present an in-depth analysis of 6 months of air quality monitoring data.</p> <p>Dr Longley's presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminded members of his role, appointed on behalf of the community to provide independent analysis of air quality data provided by Transurban to ensure the project meets its planning conditions and air quality guidelines, monitor changes to air quality and provide insight on what changes can be attributed to the project. • Provided contextual information on overall trends in monthly average NO_x levels across the Inner West and compared that to the monthly averages recorded at project monitoring sites since opening. • Showed localised analysis for each of the monitoring stations which showed no significant change at Albert Street, Campbell Street, and Ramsay Street, along with a minor improvement at Wattle Street. • Emphasised the impact of prevailing winds on monitoring results and that exceedances were only recorded on days with hazard-reduction burns. • Advised the hourly average NO₂ was well below the level mandated by the project's Conditions of Approval at all times. Very short-term impacts were also assessed for each of the sites finding no significant impacts. • Concluded that overall, long-term worsening in PM_{2.5} levels is related to bushfires and hazard reduction activities rather than the project, that slight deterioration in NO₂ was weather related, and that no significant localised air quality impacts have been detected at monitoring stations. 	None.

Agenda Items	Action
<p>Members were given an opportunity to ask questions, and it was asked a) whether a shift to a higher share of Electric Vehicles on roads was expected to deliver significant air quality impacts and b) whether the risk of EV battery fires in the tunnels presented additional safety and operations issues.</p> <p>Dr Longley advised it was difficult to predict what would happen in the future and the difference between localised and overall air quality impacts.</p> <p>The WestConnex team advised everything was in place to respond effectively to battery fires, but that these did present different challenges to standard vehicle fires as they are less predictable and can restart after being initially extinguished.</p>	
<p>5.0 Other business</p>	
<p>The Chair proposed the next meeting be held on 26 November rather than 19 November as previously advised, with no objections received. Following the meeting, this has been rescheduled to 3 December to avoid clashes with other AQCCC meetings.</p> <p>One community member advised they would be moving out of Sydney by the end of the year but would likely be able to make the next meeting. The Chair took an action to consider process for nominating a replacement member at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The Chair offered the opportunity to raise any other business related to air quality and, receiving none, thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>Chair to communicate with Community Representatives and WestConnex about process for replacing departing members.</p>