

Coming to a street near you ..

Council's "Tunnel Vision"

- .. Toll nightmare
- .. Poisonous pollution
- .. More traffic jams
- .. The "Airport Road" is back



Communities Against the Tunnels
(CATT) www.rag.org.au/tunnel/

FACT SHEET – HEALTH IMPACTS

Increased levels of nitrogen dioxide and fine and ultrafine particles from motor vehicle emissions are a health risk, especially in the closed environment of long road tunnels like the North South Bypass Tunnel (NSBT) the first of four tunnels proposed by the Brisbane City Council.

Since the introduction of unleaded petrol there has been a significant change in fuel emissions with less lead and sulphur dioxide. Course particles from diesel emissions have also dropped.

However, nitrogen dioxide levels are up and the number of fine and ultrafine particles has increased dramatically.

Effects of Increased Exposure to Fine and Ultrafine Particles

Over the last decade medical and scientific researchers have been investigating and documenting the devastating health impacts of fine and ultrafine particles. They are so tiny that, once inhaled, they cannot be coughed up like larger particles. They lodge deep in the lungs where they behave like gases, often passing into the bloodstream. They can cause both heart disease and lung cancer.

Effects of Increased Exposure to Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide is a powerful lung irritant and Swedish research has shown it to be even more dangerous in combination with fine particles, capable of triggering severe asthma attacks some time after exposure.

Tunnels Concentrate Combined Poisonous Emissions

These two pollutants, especially in combination, can threaten the health of motorists in tunnels as well as tunnel employees. When they are blown out of unfiltered stacks, as proposed for Woolloongabba and Bowen Hills with the NSBT, they can fall to the ground, showering residents and nearby workers with their poisonous pollution.

Brisbane Should Learn from the Mistakes Made Interstate

Sydney – In the M5 East unfiltered tunnel, the air is so dangerous that the NSW health Department has recommended warning signs be erected advising motorists to wind up their windows and use re-circulated air. NSW Health stated that motor cyclists and asthmatics should be warned not to use the tunnel in congested conditions.

CATT is a coalition of residents, business people, environmentalists and transport planners who argue the proposed tunnels will create dangerous levels of pollution near stacks in residential areas and traffic congestion near entrances and exists, while failing to solve Brisbane's long term traffic problems. There are alternatives. Want to know more? Contact CATT 0416 478 615