

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 – FILTRATION IS EFFECTIVE

Tunnel filtration is the removal of the dangerous pollutants known as fine particles from the tunnel air stream, using electrostatic precipitators (EPs). This can be combined with systems capable of removing the equally dangerous nitrogen dioxide. These two pollutants from motor vehicle emissions combined, as they are in road tunnels, can be deadly. (See CATT Fact Sheet – Health Impacts)

The Overseas Experience

Manufacturers in Japan and Norway can remove 80% to 90% of fine particles. Although EPs have been used in Japan for more than two decades and in Norway for more than five years, nitrogen dioxide systems are much newer. To date, only one system, developed by Alstrom Power Norway, has actually been installed in a working tunnel. However, a Japanese system will be installed in all ten ventilating towers of the Tokyo Central Belt Highway tunnels.

Nitrogen dioxide removal systems require EPs to remove particles before air enters the gas removal system. It is claimed that nitrogen dioxide cleaning systems can remove a significant proportion of the dangerous volatile organic compounds.

Smaller EP systems that can deal with high air velocities can be ceiling mounted to clean the air progressively as it moves along the tunnel. This technique is being used increasingly overseas, most recently in the Stromsas Tunnel in Norway and Aqua Line Tunnel under Tokyo Bay in Japan.

Using EPs in combination with nitrogen dioxide removal at the tunnel exits may produce air that can be dispersed safely into the atmosphere. This may make large, unsightly ventilation stacks redundant. However, it would still be necessary to provide some means of ventilating air or smoke in the event of fire in the tunnel and probably to disperse residual carbon monoxide.

We Owe it to Our Children to Ask Brisbane City Council Questions

There are now almost sixty long tunnels using EP filtration. At least 47 of them are in Japan, five are in Norway, one in Korea and one in Vietnam.

Yet, Brisbane City Council says the technology is not advanced enough to warrant putting filtration into tunnels in Brisbane.

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