

Stage Two of Lane Cove Tunnel Air Quality Study Commences

The second round of testing for the Lane Cove Tunnel Air Quality & Respiratory Health Study (AQRHS) has commenced.

Conducted by the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research the study aims to determine whether the effects of changes in air quality arising from traffic related air pollution are associated with changes in respiratory health.

In 2006, baseline data on respiratory health and related symptoms was collected by questionnaire from around 3000 participants living in four zones around the Lane Cove Tunnel.

From this initial group a sub-group of 360 people was recruited to participate in a Diary Study. The Diary Study involved participants recording symptoms and testing lung function (peak flow readings) twice daily for nine weeks. The questionnaire and diary data were collected prior to the tunnel opening, which occurred on 25 March 2007.

The study team is now preparing to collect post-tunnel questionnaire data from the original 3000 participants. McNair Ingenuity Research, a market research company, has again been contracted to conduct the questionnaire survey which involves a face to face interview with many of the participants. The diary study will also be repeated and those who participated in that study will be contacted by phone to arrange a home visit.

The research team hopes to work with as many people as possible from the previous study as this will give them the best data to work with.

It is possible that a third round of testing may be conducted in 2008 as changes to Epping Road, which will affect traffic flow in the area, will not be fully implemented until February 2008. The study team will assess changes in air quality and traffic flow between 2006 and 2007 and consult with the expert steering group prior to making a decision on testing in 2008.

The study is being funded by the CRC for Asthma & Airways and NSW Health. The study is unique to Australia and will provide valuable information to government, industry, researchers and the community."

A final report will be made publicly available through NSW Health at the conclusion of the study. Further information about the study is available at <http://www.woolcock.org.au/air.htm>

For further information contact:

Lucy Williams

Public Relations Consultant

Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

| leaders in breathing and sleep research |

PO Box M77

Missenden Road NSW 2050, Australia

M 0403 753 028

E lucyw@woolcock.org.au

W www.woolcock.org.au