

# " PPP "

## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

*The story below, from our Australian supporters, is a warning to us about hazards in the tunnels on the **A55 at Penmaenmawr/bach and Conwy** which only have thro. flow fans which are designed to be assisted by prevailing wind pressure and traffic flow. Contra flow and stationary traffic may generate severe pollution.*

**March 29, 2005 New South Wales, Australia, Tunnel Air pollution.**  
*The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has failed to install signs advising drivers to wind up their windows to block out air pollution in the M5 East tunnel despite pleas from government agencies.*

*Government documents reveal that the RTA has not followed recommendations from state government departments including Health, Environment and Conservation, and Planning to erect the signs or distribute warning brochures.*

*A NSW Health report issued in 2003 recommended that drivers wind up windows and re-circulate the air in their vehicles while inside the tunnel and that motorcyclists and those in roofless cars avoid the tunnel.*

*The report found a higher risk for asthmatics who spent more than 15 minutes in the tunnel. (note the exhaust gas from the extractor fans is a hazard itself!)*

*After the report was published the departments formed a group to monitor the health impact of the tunnel. The report was also critical of the lack of guidelines for nitrogen dioxide exposure in the tunnel.*

*Despite the report and the group's recommendations, the signs have not been erected because the RTA doubts the health risks. The brochures have been designed but not distributed.*

### **RTA (DAFT) Draft Safety guidelines...!!**

#### **- Switch air-conditioning to recirculate air.**

- Leave your radio on.
- Take sunglasses off, unless optical prescription glasses.
- Avoid changing lanes.

**The PPP comments.....This is an example of why one has to be wary of an RTA making such decisions.** The tunnels referred to are "clogged" with traffic at least twice a day, in both directions and it often takes well over 15 minutes to get through them at peak hours when the air in the tunnels is at its worst . Exhaust and circulation fans are totally inadequate for peak periods and the air quality can be quite horrendous. Our Australian friends are looking for air quality data and testing routines/frequencies.