

MEDIA RELEASE

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NorthConnex treks to raise funds for The Fred Hollows Foundation

Almost 60 staff from NorthConnex braved blisters, rain and blustery conditions to take part in the Wild Women On Top Sydney Coastrek on Friday, 17 March.

The 30 kilometre or 60 kilometre team trekking challenge is organised by adventure trekking company Wild Women On Top and raises funds for The Fred Hollows Foundation to restore sight in some of the world's poorest countries.

Each year, Coastrek teams of four, including at least two women, aim to raise at least \$2,000 for The Foundation.

Lendlease Bouygues Joint Venture Project Director Tim Orpen said the NorthConnex construction contractor had the largest corporate team in Sydney Coastrek this year and raised more than \$39,000 – exceeding the goal of raising \$26,000.

“We had 13 teams participating in this year’s challenge, which involved walking from Shelly Beach at Manly all the way to Bondi Beach,” Mr Orpen said.

“We were keen to participate in Coastrek not only as a team bonding exercise and to improve the health and wellbeing of staff, but to support the great work of The Fred Hollows Foundation, which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness for people living in poverty.”

NorthConnex participant Sue Ekinci volunteered to take part in the challenge due to her personal connection with The Fred Hollows Foundation.

“My father was a cab driver and gave a ride to Fred Hollows back in the 90’s and they started talking,” Ms Ekinci said.

“Professor Hollows told him about starting The Foundation and my dad wrote it all down and said he would donate when it was established, and he did until he passed away. Now I donate in my father’s memory.”

Since Coastrek began in Sydney in 2010, nearly 19,000 trekkers have completed the challenge, raising more than \$14.4 million for The Fred Hollows Foundation to date.



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Founding Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation, Gabi Hollows, said it was inspiring to see so many people take part in the event.

“This year we mark the 25th anniversary of The Fred Hollows Foundation and I am incredibly moved and inspired to see people still going to such great lengths to help realise Fred’s vision of a world where no person is needlessly blind,” she said.

“To everyone participating in this year’s Sydney Coastrek, thank you for giving the gift of sight by taking on this challenge. We are incredibly grateful for your support.”

Ends

NorthConnex:

The \$3 billion NorthConnex project will deliver twin nine kilometre tunnels linking the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills.

NorthConnex will deliver significant benefits to local communities by easing congestion on Pennant Hills Road, removing around 5000 trucks daily from Pennant Hills Road and returning local streets to local communities.

When complete in 2019, it will link Sydney’s north to the Orbital network and enable travel from Newcastle (M1) to Melbourne without a single set of traffic lights.



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