Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of traffic pollution on respiratory and allergic disease in adults: cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses

Version: 4 Date: 2 July 2009

Reviewer: Peter D Sly

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
I accept the author’s reasons for using a distance of 150 m from the road as the exposure metric, however they should comment on studies from Southern California in children showing effects up to 1500 m from major roads there.

However, I do not accept the author's arguments for not using IgE as either a continuous or categorical variable. While the analyses are more complex they can easily be done and the results are easily interpretable. the authors have a choice - do the analyses or remove the data concerning atopy and the interaction with traffic exposure from the manuscript. The current analyses are not adequate and the negative results may be misleading.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests