



INNER WEST COUNCIL

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

RESPONSE TO QUESTION-ON-NOTICE

NOVEMBER 2018

Question-on-notice (QoN)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You say that the RMS thought about using compulsory acquisitions for parks. Are you able to now, or on notice, tell us which ones?

Mr BYRNE: I will run you through some of them and then on notice I will make sure that you get a thorough list. Just working through the LGA, at the beginning of the project they talked about acquiring Ashfield Park. A community campaign was launched to prevent that.

Council's response to QoN

As part of Inner West Council's position of opposing WestConnex and other inner-Sydney motorways, Council opposes the impacts these projects have on parks and other areas of publicly-accessible open space. Council is concerned about the impacts regardless of the ownership status of these parks and whether or not the impacts are temporary or permanent. In raising concerns, Council is mindful that the Inner West Council area is densely developed and has a shortfall of open space compared to other parts of Sydney.

On the basis of Council's records and staff's knowledge of the project, the following portions parks have been (or will be) acquired by WestConnex by way of compulsory purchase or lease:

- *Reg Coady Reserve, Haberfield* – a portion of this park for WestConnex Stage 1 construction for approximately three years, and another portion of this park for Stage 3 construction for approximately four years - noting this park has sections that are owned by Council, Roads & Maritime Services and Sydney Water;
- *Camdenville Park, St Peters* – a portion of this Council-owned park for Stage 2 construction for approximately three years and a smaller portion for permanent Stage 2 road widening;
- *May Street Reserve, St Peters* – the whole of this small Council-owned park for Stage 2 construction for approximately three years;
- *Tempe Reserve, Tempe* – a portion of this Council-owned park for Stage 2 construction for approximately six months;
- *King George Park, Rozelle* – a portion of this Council-owned park to permanently accommodate a Stage 3 water treatment facility; and
- *Buruwan Park, Annandale* – the whole of this park (on NSW Government owned land) to be permanently removed to accommodate the widening and relocation of The Crescent.

In addition to the above acquisitions, a number of parks (along with roadways) have been (or will be) indirectly affected by WestConnex-related utility relocations and investigative drilling activities – all temporary and usually for periods of weeks, sometimes months. Council has also recently raised concerns about a large WestConnex-related road sign that has been recently erected on Parramatta Road because of its significant visual impact on the adjacent Ashfield Park.

Further, the whole of Yurulbin Park, Birchgrove (on NSW Government owned land) is proposed to be used as a construction site for the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT). As far as Council is aware, use of this park will be for the entire WHT construction period, assumed to be a period of three to four years.