



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

WESTCONNEX INQUIRY REPORT TABLED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 December 2018

The Upper House Public Accountability Committee tabled its report into the impact of the WestConnex Project today.

Committee Chairman, Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC said, 'Major infrastructure projects cannot be delivered without a certain amount of disruption. However, it is clear that WestConnex has had a significant and pronounced impact on local communities and families. I sincerely hope that some of report's findings and recommendations may make life a little easier for those impacted'.

The report makes 27 recommendations and 16 findings. Issues investigated include:

- achieving greater transparency in delivering major infrastructure projects
- improving community consultation and complaints handling
- addressing construction impacts and preserving community amenity.

'I am concerned that the proposed WestConnex unfiltered tunnel ventilation stacks do not meet best practice standards. The committee has therefore recommended that filtration systems be installed on all current and future motorway tunnels', Revd Nile said.

Revd Nile stated 'This inquiry heard about the experiences of residents and businesses who had their properties compulsorily acquired for WestConnex. I was saddened to hear that compulsory acquisition has not always been managed with an appropriate level of care.' The report includes recommendations that aim to make the compulsory acquisition process fairer and more transparent.

Revd Nile concluded: 'While some in the community would like Stage 3 of the WestConnex project to be cancelled, it remains clear that it must proceed. WestConnex is an important part of improving the state's road infrastructure. To stop now would cost taxpayers greatly and lead to reduced government investment in other areas'.

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccountability

The Committee Chairman, will hold a media conference on Monday 17 December 2018 at 11 am in the Media Room, Parliament House.

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For further information please contact Committee Chairman, Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC, on 9230 2478