

**Submission
No 40**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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Our community wants and needs world class public transport, not more polluting toll roads. My concern is two fold, the impacts on health of the community due to pollution and the increase in dependence on car transport and the excess costs in construction that divert funds from other much needed sectors of the state budget, particularly public transport. Global experience of major toll road construction has demonstrated conclusively that projects like WestConnex increase air pollution, encourage more car use, fleece road users with exorbitant tolls and eventually fill the increased road capacity they create. WestConnex is shaping up as the most expensive road project in the world but it won't solve Sydney's congestion problem. I oppose this project because: The business case does not properly consider alternatives such as public transport and demand management. The budget is now \$16.8 billion – a 68% increase on the original estimate. A project of this scale, using taxpayers funds, should be subject to rigorous assessment but both the NSW Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia have criticised the governance of this project. Hundreds of homes, businesses and parklands will be compulsorily acquired. It is diverting funding from public transport which is desperately needed across Sydney. WestConnex will turn Rozelle into a dumping ground for toxic exhaust fumes with three unfiltered exhaust stacks at the Rozelle Rail Yards and one at Victoria Road at Iron Cove Bridge just metres from homes and a primary school. The community deserves answers as to the business case for this project and also assurances for filtering of stacks to minimise any potential pollution if the project proceeds.