

**Submission  
No 45**

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT**

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Dear MLCs, I would like to make a submission both about the waste of public money and the destructive nature of the WestConnex and its adverse impact on Sydney as a whole. It is massively expensive but the business case did 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. Plans for the road kept changing, with new sections made public only weeks before the building on them started. At no time did I as someone who lives in the affected areas feel I had any genuine say over the size, scale, location or way the road is being built. Hundreds of homes, businesses and parklands have been compulsorily acquired. Sydney Park has been seriously affected and what remains of it will now be ringed by an 8 lane freeway. It is diverting funding from public transport which is desperately needed across Sydney. Why couldn't proper rail and busway connections be created instead? It is totally unclear as to why more reliance on car use should be encouraged in Sydney, which will be the inevitable effect of building ever more freeways. At a time when most countries in the world are investing in public transport, NSW is doing the opposite - clearly it would seem to benefit the big Liberal Party aligned toll companies. 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 scale of building will also affect Glebe and Forest Lodge for years, with pollution, dust and noise. In a \$17 billion project, not even a minimal effort of creating filtered exhaust stacks has been made, showing the disdain the Government has for ordinary people. This project is about private profits at huge expense and irreparable damage to the fabric of Sydney.