

**Submission
No 59**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Ms Phoebe Loomes

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I am outraged by the complete lack of respect for the residents and community of the Inner West and our local environment by the parties involved in constructing WestConnex. I live in Newtown, and I have two friends who live in the very close vicinity of a Westconnex drilling site - one who lives at the bottom of Edgeware Road and another who lives at the bottom of Unwins Bridge Road. The former could hear drilling and pile driving throughout the night. It was loud and intrusive and continuous. He received no written or verbal indications from Westconnex that his life would be disturbed. He received no indications of how long the noise would continue for, when it would start, what time of night it would begin. To expect an individual to live their life with disturbed sleep patterns for extended periods is not reasonable. My friend lived about 150 metres from the drilling site at the base of Unwins Bridge Road. This brings me to my another friend, who lived directly across from the drilling site on Unwins Bridge Road. While he was informed that there would be loud and persistent overnight pile driving and drilling, and offered alternative accomodation, he opted to stay in his home, as he considered the alternate accommodation unsavoury and in an area that would disturb his lifestyle (ie, he doesn't drive and this would make getting to work difficult for him). The drilling starts at 5 PM and continues until 6 in the morning. It is the sound of pile driving, of rocks being ground up. It is the sound of earth being moved and large vehicles moving back and forth with heavy loads. You can hear night workers yelling back and forth at one another about coffees and screaming obscenities. I spent a night at his home and it was disturbing - I got not a single wink of sleep, and the whole house was shaking for twelve hours. This disruptive night work, bedded in the middle of a residential area began at the start of the year, and continues (it is now August). I am horrified by Gladys Berejiklian's insistence that the 'Spaghetti Junction' will 'breathe life into the Inner West.' As they tear down trees and demolish houses by force, I can't help but think of Berejiklian's own office, which is based above a stretch of highway just past the Harbour Bridge, it's own kind of spaghetti junction. Her view of what 'breathes life' is a warped one. I am deeply concerned about the environmental impact Westconnex will have on the Inner West, particularly my beloved Sydney Park. While Westconnex claims to not be destroying any of the park, it says on the same site that it will be acquiring portions of the park for lane widening and interchanges. The Campbell Road section where Westconnex plans to slice into the park is extremely close to a water reservoir that is peaceful and full of birdlife, frogs, birds (probably fish, too). I am appalled and devastated that the park and it's fragile ecosystem is being carved up and not protected and that we as residents are powerless to protect it. Please consider my concerns as a resident of the Inner West and and distressed member of my community. Thank you for your time.