

**Submission
No 76**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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Westconnex - in three words 'myopic' 'boondoggle' 'debacle'. In a time of dwindling earth resources and climate change Westconnex is an antiquated solution to our transport issues. Why in the 21st century is Sydney still building more toll roads, when every other city in the world has abandoned the practice is quite perplexing. The NSW government knows perfectly well the answer to alleviate traffic congestion is to build fully functional public transport (not privatised Metros) but well integrated heavy rail lines that are compatible with our present rail system in Sydney. All public transport must remain public. I would go as far to state, public transport must be free on weekends to alleviate the worsening weekend peak hour traffic on our roads (worse than during weekdays, and lasting practically the whole day on Saturdays). We have witnessed the destruction of many suburbs in Sydney, including the federation suburb of Haberfield by Westconnex. Families ripped out of their homes and tossed into outer suburbs because a mean NSW government paid them under valued prices for their homes (yes their homes, not just houses) unable to afford, nor purchase in the suburb they are familiar, the community in which they have warm and close ties. See Supplementary image 1 (a couples' house recently renovated in Haberfield, lived in for 50 years, forcefully acquired by the government, paid under market value & demolished. SHAMEFUL). We have seen the trashing of communities, green space, parks (Sydney Park to name just one: see supplementary image 2), trees and bushland habitat cleared for the Westconnex project. The cost benefit of this project just doesn't add up. At what cost is a so called SSI (State Significant Infrastructure) beneficial to community and environment, when it destroys the very communities it's meant to benefit. STAGE THREE WESTCONNEX MUST NOT GO AHEAD.