

**Submission  
No 82**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

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The business case does not properly consider alternatives such as public transport and demand management. NSW University came up with a fantastic plan but those in power did not want to look into it. The budget is now \$16.8 billion – a 68% increase on the original estimate. Imagine how that money could have been spent on trains, trams, busses and bike lanes. A project of this scale, using taxpayer funds, should be subject to rigorous assessment but both the NSW Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia have criticised the governance of this project. Has any engineering firm worked out how to build the Rozelle interchange yet? Every step of the way has been secret from the failure to show the proposed route at the start to the farce of the Dan Murphy site nearly gaining millions of tax payer monies in full knowledge of the proposal before hand. Hundreds more of homes, businesses and parklands will be compulsorily acquired. We can see the total devastation of our communities in St Peters Haberfield and more. Does anyone in the current government live in those affected areas? What about the houses that were not acquired and now front a massive highway – what compensation for those people whose house values have more than halved? And then what about the people living in streets that were quiet and family friendly and now will become rat runs, what compensation for them? The private company builds the road and puts a toll on it. The government then offers tax payers money to reimburse motorists whose tolls have reached a certain amount. What kind of crazy logic is that? It is the logic of a government sucking up to big business and kicking the average tax payer in the head. 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 rail yard ones are at sea level with house rising on either side – just where the stacks exhaust will come out. The Premier has prided herself on 'listening to the community' but we have been campaigning against this project for years and growing in numbers all the time. All she can say is 'how can people not want something that will reduce congestion'. Has she not seen the forward projections that show in a very short while WestConnex will be as clogged as the current roads are now. In arrogance does she ignore all of the research from countries around the world that show building highways is not the answer and destroys neighbourhoods and communities.