

Submission  
No 90

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 15 August 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

I am very grateful for the Westconnex Parliamentary Inquiry being undertaken. As a resident of Rozelle I am in a state of disbelief as to how such huge project has been approved without proper scrutiny of alternative approaches, cost benefit analysis and consideration of short and long term local impacts. My particular concerns are: - Changes to project scope: Westconnex does not address one of the major requirements cited in its initial conception - improved connections to Port Botany and Sydney Airport. By contrast, the Iron Cove tunnel was added as almost an afterthought, without articulating potential development impacts along Victoria Rd once traffic was diverted. Unconvincing Westconnex plans are now being used as justification for further toll roads, in the Western Sydney Harbour Tunnel, which will be of questionable value and cause huge disruption to my neighbourhood during construction. - Lack of consideration of alternatives: How can the plans for the "largest infrastructure project in Australia" have been advanced with out looking at alternative ways to deliver improved commuter travel times? Public transport and demand management should be considered, even now that the project is well advanced. - Lack of transparency: The use of 'commercial in confidence' and private corporation status for Sydney Motorways as a shield against public scrutiny must be undone. Projected traffic flows and revenues must be made public if there is to be any hope of garnering true community support. What is there to hide? Likewise, a rushed EIS process has effectively curtailed public engagement. Can The Inquiry determine whether this has been to ease the passage of sale of 51% of the motorway for primarily political reasons? - Unfiltered exhaust stacks: The community is yet to be convinced that unfiltered exhaust stacks are safe. The location of the Iron Cove stack almost adjacent to Rozelle Public School is of significant local concern. What does the science say and what would be the cost of filtering stacks in particularly sensitive areas? - Need for independent audit and oversight: A project of this scale, time-frame and complexity needs to be assessed by a non-political organisation. Criticism from the NSW Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia needs to be taken into account. The participation of such a review body would enable the issues listed above to be publicly examined. In conclusion, Westconnex is a 1970's solution to a 2000's problem. The needs and means of commuters are rapidly changing and Westconnex does not address this. The submission of the City of Sydney to M4-M5 Link EIS 'WestConnex Alternative Proposal' makes a compelling case for a different approach. I believe this would be a particularly useful reference document for The Inquiry. Thank you for consideration of my submission.