

Submission
No 100

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry into the Impacts of Westconnex

We are Haberfield residents who live in Tinana St, Haberfield, one block in from the westbound work site on Parramatta Road, which is about 100 metres from our property, and we have a number of complaints and concerns about Westconnex.

Dust and dirt

Our house, our car, and the plants in our garden are constantly covered by dust and dirt. This problem has increased since the closure of Chandos Street at Parramatta Road, due to debris-filled Westconnex trucks frequently now travelling along Tinana St. If we wash either our car or our house windows, they are generally dirty again within a few days. Hence, there is no real point washing them, and it is very distressing to live in a constant state of dirt. Dust also enters our home. Most of our window sills indoors are covered by a fine layer of Westconnex dust, as is our furniture. We have already suffered about two years of dust from the construction activity.

About six months ago, we contacted the community liaison officer to complain, and to seek monetary compensation (to pay third parties to clean car/windows and house exterior on a regular basis) but she was not available, and she did not bother to return our call.

Health

We can only imagine what constant inhalation of the dust is doing to our health. A neighbour recently advised us that she is a borderline asthmatic, and that she is finding it very difficult to cope with the constant airborne dust, and that her health is suffering as a result.

Noise

We have suffered about two years of Westconnex construction noise. It ranges from low grade rumbling to active banging/clanging/drilling noises. At times, it continues through the night. Recently, I was woken up by such noise, and it kept me awake several times during the night.

Light pollution

If we look out over our rear garden and rear fence, at night, toward Parramatta Road, we see the bright lights of the construction site across the road. Westconnex is all pervasive in our area.

Rat-running traffic

We are very concerned about the rat-running of cars that will undoubtedly occur throughout much of Haberfield once this part of Westconnex starts operating. We expect that when traffic exits the eastbound Westconnex tunnel, it will join a nearly non-moving "car park" on Parramatta Road. Parramatta Road at Haberfield is already heavily congested during much of the day, and this will become worse

because the Westconnex tunnel will result in greater numbers of cars on Parramatta Road, Haberfield, which will have nowhere to go, except to move slowly along Parramatta Road, which has many “choke points” as the road moves variously from two to three lanes and back to two lanes again.

When motorists exit the tunnel and realise that they are in heavily congested traffic, we expect that they will try to exit Parramatta Road by rat-running through surrounding streets, including our own. It is shortsighted to not be addressing this problem by modifying local streets *now*, rather than wait for the inevitable rat running. We are confident that traffic modelling experts can predict where the problems will be. Yet council, apparently, refuse to address this issue now. Our fear is that they will never address it.

Compulsory acquisition of property

Although not personally affected by this issue, we have heard reports that residents whose homes were compulsorily acquired were not offered market value for their homes, and were forced to litigate in order to obtain market value. Many residents were older, unsophisticated Italians with little means of financially supporting a court case, and were forced to accept below market value for their homes. If this is true, it is appalling that the NSW government has engaged in such corrupt Mafia-style practices.

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