

Submission
No 104

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 22 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

This project has affected me and the community I live in deeply. It has impacted the way I feel about living in the inner west and has been heart breaking to watch unfold, almost on a daily basis.

I've been affected by the obliteration of large parts of long established and much-loved suburbs such as Haberfield, changing the nature and fabric of these suburbs and their communities.

I've been hurt to hear of the woeful under compensation of people forcibly removed from their homes through compulsory acquisition. These people were not given market value compensation for their homes so there was no way they could afford to remain living in their communities as a consequence. This project has ripped families from their homes.

Many of these homes were beautiful old federation houses. They were irreplaceable. They will never be seen again and certainly never built again. Sydney has lost something special because of this project.

I've been assaulted by the noise and dirt and pollution due to the project. Residents were 'compensated' for loud, around-the-clock noise with movie tickets. Laughable, if not so insulting and a complete disregard for what they are going through.

I've been devastated by the trees destroyed and never to be replaced. What will be planted in their place will be flimsy saplings and shrubs that won't survive the upcoming scorching summer. If you cut down a 30 year old 10m tree, then you replace it with 10m tree. Like for like. Don't pretend that what you are replacing these mature trees with is as good or better. It's not even remotely close. It absolutely breaks my heart to see the trees along Dobroyd Pde in Haberfield hacked down and replaced with a huge ugly wall. I understand the wall is to protect residents from noise but could you not have kept some of those trees? Could you not have designed and arranged the project in such a way that these trees were saved? They are gone forever.

If this destruction of one part of my community were not enough, I now learn of the destruction you are intent on reeking on Rozelle and the Iron Cove Bay Run. Smokestacks near the second most popular walk in Sydney? Where thousands of people and their dogs exercise everyday? Are you kidding? Can you make Sydney any uglier and unhealthier?

And there are alternatives! First and foremost – address the number of people travelling into the Sydney CBD every day. Where are all the jobs in the greater west of Sydney? What happened to building business parks and other industries in other parts of Sydney to alleviate pressure on the Sydney CBD? Secondly, public transport. It's got to be better than it is. How long did the Opal card take to be rolled out? Even Melbourne beat us for God's sake! Packed trains, buses stuck in traffic (bus lanes please?) and a light rail that hasn't been finished in the city yet. It's treated as a secondary concern by the state government when it ought to be the first thing considered when designing anything in Sydney.

This project has ripped an ugly scar into Sydney's inner west and across the hearts of so many of its residents. Please reconsider the current works and any further proposals. Please focus on communities, their environment and what they want for their city.