

**Submission  
No 107**

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT**

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I have been dismayed at the manner in which the transparency processes in place to ensure public accountability for committing and spending public money have been bypassed and evaded for the purpose of proceeding with the Westconnex project. The NSW Auditor General's report and the Australian National Audit Office report both testify to that as well as to the lack of attention to ensuring major projects are appropriate and represent best value for NSW. Additionally, the secrecy surrounding the financial and other activities of the Sydney Motorway Corporation undermines major transparency initiatives and processes previously adopted in NSW. For those open to seeing a valid justification and business case for this project, the closed manner in which the project is proceeding inevitably causes suspicion that there is no valid case that would benefit the citizens of NSW. Further, when pollution is a concern, it is difficult to understand the logic of increasing heavy vehicle traffic only to route it under the inner suburbs via stage 3 of the project, locating unfiltered emission stacks close to higher density residential property, and, no doubt, causing increased heavy vehicle traffic on the roads surrounding the entry and exit points.