

**Submission
No 112**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Jean-Philippe Nemlich

Date Received: 26 August 2018

26th August 2018

Dear Committee members,

As a Sydney resident concerned about impacts on communities, urban planning, transport and public health, I would like to object to the Westconnex project on the following grounds:

Urban Planning

Building these huge toll roads will divide communities and discourage the use of public and active transport, making the city less liveable. Sydney's public transport system is woefully inadequate compared to that of other major global cities.

Air pollution

Building these toll roads will involve countless polluting truck journeys and will lock Sydney into continued car-dependency for decades. Air pollution from motor vehicles kills more Australians every year than road traffic accidents.

Carbon Emissions

Encouraging truck and car use will result in huge addition CO₂ emissions, at a time when Australia is trying to meet its obligations under the Paris Treaty.

Business Case & Cost

The business case for Westconnex is fundamentally flawed and does not represent value to the people of NSW, who will be paying for these toll roads for decades to come, while private toll road operators make huge profits at taxpayers' expense.

The cost has already overrun the original budget by billions of dollars and will prevent much needed investment into integrated public transport.

Project goals

An integral part of the original Westconnex business case was the Sydney Gateway road and rail link to Sydney airport and Port Botany. Despite this the Westconnex project has gone ahead without including these important objectives, which are now part of a separate project.

Project governance

The creation of the Sydney Motorway Corporation has prevented public scrutiny of the project, which is funded by public money. The sale of the corporation will no doubt involve income guarantees and restrictions on public transport along the route, effectively mortgaging the state to a private corporation for decades.

I therefore request that the committee halt construction and consider the alternative proposals to stage 3 of Westconnex put forward by the City of Sydney <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision/changing-urban-precincts/westconnex>.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Philippe Nemlich

