

**Submission
No 113**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Mr Enrico Simonetti

Date Received: 26 August 2018

Enrico Simonetti

Sydney, 26/08/2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Enrico Simonetti, currently resident and owner of Parramatta
Road in North Strathfield, NSW.

Please see below the list of recommendations that should be applied to the WestConnex project, to overcome some of the challenges personally encountered to date.

Some of the points are provided with additional recommendation and actual examples of where the issues have been encountered to date, during the Westconnex project (M4 East EIS – Concord Road Interchange).

The recommendations provided below, are applicable to the Inquiry into the impact of the WestConnex Project, under the Terms of reference (j) any other related matter.

1. Assess (or re-assess if completed already) newly built road impact to visual, noise, pollution etc, and provide remediation. As a minimum the installation of transparent and aestetical pleasing noise barriers attached to the road should be mandatory on roads less than 30 meters away from residential buildings
 - a. In specific, the new fly-in overpass from Concord Road to WestConnex west bound does not seem to have planned installation of transparent noise barriers. and it is at most 10-15 meters from residential property
2. Assess properties evaluation impacts for affected local residents, where any connection to the lower evaluation can be directed to the work and provide compensation

- a. A simple metric for areas where the work are on-going/completed is to look at average of properties sales price about 500 meters, over the past 3 years, with similar characteristics of the properties near the work site, and compare with affected properties growth in evaluation
3. Assess unreasonable requests that have been made to local residents to date (eg: free usage of private land) where no compensation has been provided, and where the time extended beyond original plans
 - a. In specific the private land behind the building located at Parramatta Rd has been used (and private vegetation removed) without any compensation to the owners, for more than a year. The land was supposed to be temporarily used from February 2017 to June 2017 according to the signed paperwork while in August 2018 is still in use
4. Assess, reduce and enforce speed limits of newly built road, that are close (30 meters or less) from residential buildings
5. Provide reimbursement of any lawyers expenses occurred to date, sustained to review and provide feedback to WestConnex provided contracts and letters that required signature
 - a. Going forward, for any contract review it should be proposed free and independent legal advice to the affected parties for any contract or letter that has to be signed for approval
6. Review and assess the feasibility of recommendations that were specifically requested to the local residents (eg: all the feedback provided on: <https://www.collaborativemap.com/M4East>). To date it is not clear if the feedback provided was ever actioned during the course of the project
7. Assess if there are amendments to the project, that could improve local resident's life with some effort
 - a. As an example it was brought forward the possibility of using the land under the newly built fly-in overpass from Concord Road to WestConnex, to provide an additional way in to the single entrance road Young St for the tenants
 - b. Another example was the possibility of making more aesthetically pleasing pillars and road walls, of newly built construction, by using low maintenance climbing plants or in alternative decorative drawings
 - c. Another example that was brought forward on previous recommendations was a pedestrian and cyclable bridge between Queen St and George Ln in North Strathfield, directly attached to the new M4 (above the railway). This would provide safer and more suitable connections for pedestrians and bikes to and from George St, with better access for the local shops, schools and North Strathfield train station, providing a community overall return
8. Plant more trees, replace previously cut down trees with mature plants and improve existing parks
 - a. Plant more trees on all green areas (or areas that can be made green) to help alleviate the pollution, provide fresh oxygen, and partially filter noise, especially for the the population in the vicinity of the main roads.
 - b. Make sure that newly planted trees should not only be seedlings/saplings but should also be mature trees, especially to help replace what has been cut down during the work, in a timely manner, and not in 10-20 years time
 - c. Improve existing parks in the vicinity of the WestConnex corridor
9. Going forward, plan better the work and the impact on residents and their properties

- a. Practical examples include the temporary free use of owner's residential land that was supposed to last only three months. It is and has been in use now for more than 12 months
10. Ensure that pedestrian and bike crossing are safe and available on major intersections
 - a. In specific please refer to Concord Road entrance/exits crossings going up/down to/from Concord Road from/to Parramatta Road

Sincerely,

Enrico Simonetti