

Submission
No 141

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission regarding investigation of Westconnex Motorway.

28th August 2018

I am a local resident of 16 years resident at St Peters, which is located adjacent the construction of the Westconnex Interchange and My property is located above, and impacted by the Stage 3 tunnelling (and associated underground blasting) from St Peters to Haberfield.

I strongly support the Legislative Council Inquiry to investigate the Westconnex project and I strongly support the push to having this project halted. The project has already caused major impacts on the community and its residents and this will be further impacted as the project progresses, and on completion, aside from the cost blowout which taxpayers are paying for, will have no real positive outcomes for the community.

This project has been flawed from initial concept.

From my perspective there were a number of glaring faults with the planning and progress of this project, including the following:-

- Initially, there was lack of consultation with the local community prior to the project.
- The business case plan for the Westconnex project did not consider, or provide a comparison with, any public transport options – if a suitable comparison had of been undertaken the cost effectiveness and suitability of the best option could then have been progressed, - this would result in a more cost effective project than the Westconnex project.
- The location of the St Peters interchange does not provide a solution to the traffic problem of Sydney.
 - It is filtering 120,000 extra cars into the local area to further congest the local roads, and increasing congestion majorly for the local area and the flow on effect to surrounding area roads.
 - This congestion is also bringing a higher level of toxic air pollution into the local area and will contribute to associated health impacts on the local residents.
- The project initially was planned to provide a road link between the Western Suburbs to Port Botany and the Airport - this plan has been scrapped and the current proposal does not include this link at all, it now delivers the vehicles 7kms away from Port Botany to the St Peters Interchange.
- Environmental and Health impacts have not been taken into consideration in the planning and ongoing work of the project.
 - The exhaust stacks are planned as Unfiltered and to be located close to the residential areas- this will further decrease the air quality for the local area, and will be contributing to associated health and environmental impacts on local residents and the community.
 - Other related impacts have included:-
 - Noise levels of the project have been breached on many occasions, both day and night.
 - Pollution levels from the truck emissions and dust from the clearing and construction on the interchange site.

- The removal of the contaminated material in the initial stages of the clearing the landfill site was hazardous to the local community
- Smell hazards at the initial stage of clearing the dump site was breached and caused weeks of a continual unpleasant pungent/offensive smell in the local area. EPA needed to apply stringent measures applied to the worksite to help combat this.
- Damage to residential property has been occurring due to the tunnelling and blasting.
- The increased dust levels due to the construction of the interchange over the prolonged period since commencement have impacted the health of local residents.

I welcome a thorough investigation into the viability of this project. The project and its impact have been shrouded in secrecy and with all of the changes since initial plan, has not shown any positive outcomes or benefits thus far.

St Peters