

**Submission
No 149**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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WestConnex Parliamentary Inquiry submission

The Balmain and Rozelle community is connected by strong bonds around family, and supporting local businesses. This results in a close sustainable environment and community spirit. WestConnex both in construction and operation has the potential to split and destroy this community

In the short term I see impact through drilling emissions, vibrations and water pollution as well as the public safety risk of construction vehicle movements. Statistically it is probable, given volume of construction vehicle movements, one life changing injury or fatality to a member of the public will occur.

In the longer term, when operational I truly believe that the impact of air pollution through exhaust stacks is unknown and health risks are being sacrificed for short term economics. Whilst not qualified, I suspect that in the future the long term health impacts may well outweigh short term gains.

From a programme perspective I am concerned about the haste that the programme is being pushed through without true consultation and some of the actions taken to date, such as compulsory acquisitions, make me wonder whether mere lip service is being paid to any form of planning review.

From a strategic perspective I really struggle with the programme. Merely adding roads has been shown time and again to have little impact on quality of life, congestion or capacity. Surely the capital invested would be better deployed in building a sustainable and equitable public transport system or even used to promote regional city connectivity and development over Sydney primacy.

28th August 2018