

**Submission
No 200**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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- The governance and structure of the WestConnex project including the relationship between Sydney Motorway Corporation, Roads and Maritime Services, the Treasury and its shareholding Ministers does need to be examined in detail. Substantial contributions made to both political parties by organisations in the business of providing infrastructure also need to be scrutinised in the light of the subsequent awarding of tenders for State Significant Infrastructure projects.
- Allegations of corruption levelled against key players such as CIMIC and AECOM in other parts of the world have led to these companies being banned from tendering while these charges are being investigated. Good governance suggests that the same approach should also have been applied here.
- Inaccurate and overstated usage figures supplied by AECOM on at least 3 other tollroad projects here have not been met, resulting in the shortfall being made up from the public purse. AECOM's figures for The Sydney Harbour Tunnel has cost NSW taxpayers over \$1 billion during the time of its operation.
- The sale of the Sydney Motorway Corporation may not represent a good investment for NSW taxpayers. Any sale that guarantees to reimburse the operators from the public purse for less than projected usage, is clearly contrary to the public interest. Any contract, such as the one for the Eastern Distributor, that precludes the Government, or any operator, from providing an alternate or competing transport corridor, is also definitely not in the public interest.
- Because of the secrecy surrounding the Project it is impossible to ascertain the extent of taxpayer liability.
- Of enormous concern to residents of the Inner West is the blatant refusal by the RMS to filter the proposed exhaust stacks. This decision will cause premature morbidity, ranging from diabetes to cancer. It ignores world's best practice - as road tunnels in Japan, Norway, Spain, Italy, and China are constructed with in tunnel particulate and nitrogen dioxide filtration.
- The 4 proposed stacks in Rozelle will easily emit in excess of 50 tonnes of particulate matter annually, based on RMS figures for the M5 East exhaust stack. The cost to the community in financial terms is impossible to quantify but could easily run into billions
- The NSW Government must meet its duty of care. It has a legal and moral responsibility to enhance the quality of life of its citizens and to protect them from harm. All Governments are elected to act in the best interests of their citizens. Failure to knowingly do so is unconscionable.