

**Submission  
No 208**

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT**

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Jennifer Galbraith

NSW Parliament

Committees inquiries

Impact of the Westconnex project submissions

August 31, 2018

Dear Committee members,

I have lived in St Peters since 2005. I liked living in St Peters as it was a close knit community and most people would smile and say good morning/afternoon when passing in the street. Of course we had noise and dust issues then, caused by the airport being so close, but we knew what we were getting into when we bought. We looked into the future M5 plans and felt safe to buy where we did as the New M5 was going through Tempe, away from houses etc.

When we heard the M5 was coming to St Peters, we went to the information meetings and was given assurances that, although it would be different, we would not be put out at all.

I knew something was up when we were offered independent surveying of our property for potential damage caused to our place by the project.

Moving forward to today, our lives have changed for the worse.

We have been consistently hammered by the tunnelling noise from underneath us. The vibration and constant noise have made us lose sleep and quality of life. The explosions under us makes us jump everyday. If something is not well secured, the explosions will knock it over. We have become nervous and jumpy around 10-11 each day. The times have now changed to the afternoons. You just don't know what time your house is going to move and shake.

The noise is something else, construction noise at all hours, it doesn't stop. It's 24/7!

The dust is another problem, at first I dusted everyday, inside and out. I did this for the first 6 months and then gave up. My complaints feel on deaf ears and I felt like the new M5 was just paying lip service to me everytime I rang. I only dust inside now. I wash our clothes and hang them inside. When I hung them outside. They always felt dusty and didn't smell fresh.

Everytime I drive anywhere around my suburb, I feel I'm taking my life in my own hands. We have huge trucks on our little narrow streets, something that never happened before as all the streets have a 3tonne limit. No-one polices this anymore, police seem to turn a blind eye to it. I have complained to council and they have also given up.

We used to be a community of happy people, but now we don't smile at each other anymore. We are a shattered, broken community. We all lack sleep and feel cheated by our government. Many people have left St Peters, I don't blame them.

I am also not sure things will change when the project is finished. I envisage a lot more cars on our narrow streets. And our streets being used as rat runs.

The current project is short sighted, where are all these cars going. The project stops and leads to single lane roads.

We were not consulted when the project changed suburbs, we were told and had the terms and scope of the project dictated to us. When I did some research and found the the current stack is going to be way to short by world standards, I was told by RMS representatives that the flight path prohibited them from going higher. The flight path has been there for an awfully long time, move the stack location. The lack of height of the stack means exhaust from the stack will cover the suburb with dangerous chemicals and dust, opening the government to a huge law suit, not to mention making us very sick!

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say. I don't think I have conveyed my total frustration and sadness I feel, but at least I've gotten it off my chest.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Galbraith

