

Submission
No 224

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Jeremy Austen

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Jeremy Austen

Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for WestConnex
Parliament of NSW

30 August 2018

Dear Minister

Impact of the WestConnex project

I live in Belmont Street, Alexandria, which, together with Lawrence Street, Maddox Street and Harley Street, form a Conservation Area, lying between Euston Road and Mitchell Road.

The pretty tree lined streets of this area consist of mainly residential terraces and cottages, and they provide a pleasant place to live, as well as walk and cycle around, away from the already busy nearby main roads.

Part of the WestConnex project includes a proposed slip road from Euston Road into Maddox Street, a proposal that will feed increased traffic through the middle of the Conservation Area onto the already congested roads between here and Newtown and Redfern. This will cause all streets in the area to become 'rat runs' as frustrated drivers seek to avoid the congestion.

This proposal has been without any consultation with residents in the area and is already underway, including the loss of many trees along Euston Road between Huntley and Maddox streets.

Given that City of Sydney proposes, for good reason, to block traffic access into this area, and that this is the only work that has been done on this stretch, this is a case of irreparable destruction of our environment before anyone can say or do anything about it and a waste of taxpayers' money.

The whole concept of WestConnex is illogical in an age when most cities are discouraging cars from driving into the city centre and are improving and encouraging the use of public transport or cycling and walking instead. London, for instance, has a congestion charge to discourage motor vehicles entering the city centre which has led to an enhanced experience for all users and visitors in a city that has a far higher population than Sydney. Do we really want to model our city on somewhere like Los Angeles, or do we want to create a city that looks good and works well?

I hope these concerns are of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Austen