

**Submission
No 225**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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I have found the whole Westconnex debacle extremely stressful. When the project was announced it was touted as the answer to airport traffic congestion. So far there has not been a resolution to this. Reducing the cost of the airport line tickets would have negated the need for Westconnex entirely. In fact, traffic in the area has become considerably worse, seven days a week. Some days I cannot get out of my driveway due to the congestion caused by the works. This also causes a lot more angry drivers, held up in traffic with no end in sight. The trucks on the road have been dangerous, It seems a high proportion of the contractors have little or no concern for residents with dangerous driving (driving on the wrong side of the road, reversing around corners, parking on footpaths or close to corners causing visual obstruction, driving mud through the streets, running red lights, speeding).

Where is the complete business case for this project?

The pollution has been intense, with dust, noise, dirt and vibration daily occurrences. I can lie in bed and feel the vibrations in my head from the works. I am constantly cleaning to no avail, the dust gets into everything. I worry for my children's health. I have not had a clear nose since the work started except when leaving the area. We have cracks appearing in our home. The acquisition process was horrific and badly managed. While it was bad enough for home owners to be evicted, in some ways it was worse for tenants, a large number of which were low income earners who had lived in the area for many, many years. Quite a number of these people have had to leave the area, no longer able to afford to rent in the area they have called home with all the supports they previously had from living long term in the neighbourhood. I know elderly women that have had to move into boarding houses because that was all that they could afford. To go from having a home to that type of living situation is just cruel. Children have had to leave the only homes they have ever known, and friends, which has been very disruptive.

What concerns me the most however is that the exhaust stacks will not be filtered. How a government can subject residents to such pollution beggars belief. The inner west is home to many families with children of all ages. Many people are considering moving because of the known health risks. There are schools very close to the stacks. To have no filtration seems a step back for a supposedly enlightened and aware generation. I implore you to stop this project before the health implications claim lives.