

**Submission
No 231**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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The impacts of the West Connex construction have been ongoing, escalating and simply exhausting for residents of St. Peters. One of those residencies on Campbell Street consists of myself, my partner and two other house mates who have been shown very little respect, remorse or empathy through the WestConnex saga of late nights, early mornings and dusty homes and lungs.

My first concern is what the WestConnex construction is actually doing to our bodies, and that of our little dogs. Since moving to St. Peters in 2017 my asthma and hay fever have worsened significantly, and I have heard a lot of other local residents have the same issues, which all seems like a wonderful coincidence to me. The air has a constant smell of chemical and the dust is extremely intrusive and relentless.

Before Campbell street was torn up we were approached by staff from the WestConnex customer relations team to notify us that the road at the front of our house will be undergoing construction and we would lose all vehicle access to our property for six months. This was late 2017.

On top of losing access to our property, any street parking would soon become gold. Most street parking is utilised by WestConnex employees. I get anxiety daily when I am home bound after a day at work (where I work as a Mental Health outreach support worker) because I know the difficulty of trying to park even close to the vicinity of my home.

Shopping is another challenge. I have chronic back and knee issues (which I will soon be having surgery for also) and lugging groceries from the car to my home causes immense pain and frustration.

With physical and mental distress aside, the parking issue is also becoming costly with parking fines being dished out generously. The constant road changes and "no stopping" zones changing and being parked out of untimed spaces makes it very hard to keep up with where we can and can't park.

Another, quite obvious issue we have is the constant excessive noise. Night work and weekend work are a common occurrence. Acceptable notification of these works is not so common. If we are notified of the works, it is very downplayed in attempt to lead us to believe the noise won't affect us.

It does.

The night work leaves us sleepless, to the point I have had to take days of work, and to the point my mental and physical health is deeply affected. Then at the end of a long week, sleeping in is a luxury as the works start again at 8am (generally), there have been occasions where it was started earlier or even continued from Friday morning right through to Saturday morning (for this occasion we were not notified by WestConnex customer relations, but one of the traffic control staff in passing conversation). We can no longer enjoy a nice quiet weekend in our home anymore.

Again, we have little empathy from WestConnex if we forward our complaints to them.

It has come to the point where we don't see any other solution but to relocate away from St. Peters, again at an extra cost to us.

I really cannot understand how the government can allow this intrusion into peoples lives. Nor can I understand the lack of support we receive as citizens from government bodies that are supposed to be impartial and respectful and supportive of our Human Rights.

What Westconnex/The M5

Project have classified as 'acceptable' in the governments' eyes is completely insensitive to real people living their lives, such as figures from sound modelling ensuring that 'no, it's not actually that

loud' (it is!) and what is considered to be 'an okay length of time' to keep people a wake (no more than two consecutive days past midnight). Being kept awake ANY amount of days past midnight is just unacceptable, when you have emotionally strenuous or tolling 9-5 jobs, and then on top of that getting no peace on weekends. We hope you can see this from the resident point of view.