

Submission
No 234

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Ms Natalie Shea

Date Received: 31 August 2018

I believe strongly that all Sydney residents should have access to affordable, efficient transport. I am also committed to reducing pollution and increasing amenity. For all these reasons, I am utterly opposed to WestConnex. It will not solve traffic issues; building more roads simply encourages more cars onto the roads and the traffic continues to worsen. It will not address the specific traffic problem it was originally intended to resolve - i.e. road access to Sydney's ports - because the plans have been amended so that WestConnex no longer actually goes all the way to the ports. It will be a toll road and therefore will be an expense to those using it. In addition, I am most concerned that the whole project has been greenlighted and rubberstamped all along the way. There has been no information made public about the costs, the financial model for its operation, and the serious environmental impact of its construction and its operation.

I do understand that residents in Sydney's outer suburbs do need cars to get around, and are not able to enjoy the density of public transport options that we inner city residents are blessed with. However I also believe that those cars should be used to get people *to* public transport links: to get them to local train stations and bus stops, and give them somewhere safe and cheap to leave their cars during the day while they commute. I believe that Westconnex is a massive waste of money which would be better spent on creating and upgrading and expanding and maintaining the infrastructure and public transport networks that will enable those living in the western suburbs to access good public transport, where they can get a regular and frequent service, and don't have to stand during the morning and afternoon peak hours.