

**Submission
No 256**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Ms India Bell
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I am very concerned by the way the entire project has proceeded. There has been a shocking lack of transparency, due process and due diligence from the beginning.

The business case has never been put forward to show that this huge, destructive and expensive tolled motorway is a better solution to Sydney's already huge traffic congestion problems than improving and extending the public transport system which would keep cars off the roads. The result would be lead to a more resilient and liveable city, with better air quality, more green and open space and less stressed commuters.

Community consultation has been minimal and only sought after the tenders were sought and awarded. This also applied to the consideration of Environmental Impact Statements and community submissions received.

Information about the scale of the project where I live and how it would affect the local community was only released in brief announcements after the project was underway. I went to the one meeting held in our local area at the West Leagues Club in Ashfield and the advisors there clearly had a minimal grasp of the issues. They were not able to address community concerns as to why the ventilation stacks were going to be unfiltered, for example, or give specific details as to how it would impact on air quality, or about the bulk and height of the structure, Residents found out only around that time that the tunnel would not go under Parramatta Road between Concord and Ashfield as previously indicated but under residents' homes and the implications of this to them.

Another major concern to me has been the scale of the destruction of homes, communities and the environment including parks, trees and public space to allow for this road project, as well as the temporary work sites.

I also think to allow a private road toll giant like Transurban to lock in tolls for the next four decades is a shocking legacy to leave to future generations.

India Bell