

**Submission  
No 265**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

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Submission: Inquiry into the impacts of the WestConnex project

Our community wants and needs world class public transport, not more polluting toll roads.

Global experience of major toll road construction has demonstrated conclusively that projects like WestConnex increase air pollution, encourage more car use, fleece road users with exorbitant tolls and eventually fill the increased road capacity they create.

WestConnex is shaping up as the most expensive road project in the world but it won't solve Sydney's congestion problem. I oppose this project because:

The business case does not properly consider alternatives such as public transport and demand management. The budget is now \$16.8 billion – a 68% increase on the original estimate. A project of this scale, using taxpayers funds, should be subject to rigorous assessment but both the NSW Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia have criticised the governance of this project. Hundreds of homes, businesses and parklands will be compulsorily acquired. It is diverting funding from public transport which is desperately needed across Sydney. WestConnex will turn Rozelle Rail Yards and one at Victoria Road at Iron Cove Bridge just metres from homes and a primary school. If we want to build a city for our future generations we desperately need funding for public transport, not privatised roads (not even public roads). Public transport and safe, cycling infrastructure would provide for a longer term, healthy, happy Sydney of the future.