

**Submission  
No 270**

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT**

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Legislative Council, Committees  
NSW Parliament  
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### **Submission: Inquiry into the impacts of WestConnex**

My submission relates to the term of reference regarding item J - Any other related matter.

As a young, forward thinking 22 year old resident of Rozelle, I am deeply concerned about the impact that the WestConnex project will have on Sydney.

I have lived in Sydney all of my life and have had the privilege of growing up in the charming suburb of Rozelle. I have had many fond memories of playing in it's parks, visiting the markets, getting gelato after school and most importantly the strong sense of community and life long friendships that I have made.

We have made such a happy life here in Rozelle. It's such a convenient area for someone who is studying and working in the inner city, and we have made such strong connections to the people on our street, people who I have known for 20 years of my life. However, two and a half years ago I heard about a project that made me realise that this precious area I had grown so fond of will soon be destroyed. This project being WestConnex. I learned that there would be multiple road tunnels, with ventilation stacks and impossible interchanges spewing traffic and pollution into and around Rozelle.

In St Peters and Haberfield I've seen peoples houses turned into rubble, parks and old trees destroyed, heritage lost and local businesses shut down. People screaming and crying when being dragged from their treasured homes. All of this chaos and destruction slowly making it's way towards my childhood home.

There are so many stories just like mine of people living in these beautiful areas right across Sydney, who are worried for their future and will inevitably be suffering the impacts of WestConnex.

When I think of all the negative sides of WestConnex, the list could go on forever. But there are 3 key points that I think are major factors as to why WestConnex is a damaging and wasteful project.

The first impact, and what I believe is the most frightening impact, is the pollution that Westconnex will cause and will ultimately promote. More and more I become very concerned about the future of this planet. I believe climate change, unless we do something about it immediately, will be the end of us. And it's projects like WestConnex that will contribute to the destruction of our planet in the long run. It will be digging up toxic earth, releasing highly concentrated exhaust fumes through the ventilation stacks and clearing away well developed trees that took decades to grow and that provide us with oxygen.

Not only will each of these issues impact the planet, they also will cause a lot of harm to the people living in Sydney and in the suburbs that are directly effected, as well as the precious wildlife and delicate ecosystems we have. If this pollution is deadly to us, then it most certainly will be toxic to the wildlife as well. Something that our planet is alarmingly running out of at a very fast pace.

Where I live, there is a ventilation stack proposed at the top of my street. This means concentrated car exhaust fumes will be pouring out over my house. I have recently discovered, through an overwhelming amount of scientifically proven information, that this type of air pollution is deadly and I am greatly concerned about the risk it will impose on my health and others. I am especially worried for my father, as he has had bladder cancer and one of the main causes for that type of cancer is air pollution.

The second impact is the destruction of homes, businesses and nature. This impact greatly saddens me. Sydney has it's own unique charm and heritage that I and so many others admire and WestConnex is destroying this. Already so many beautiful houses, heritage listed and non heritage have been reduced to rubble, only to be replaced by unnecessary roads and smoke stacks or possibly high rise apartments. I know people at the top of my street who have been forced to leave their homes and then can't afford to move elsewhere in the area. My heart breaks to think that their houses will be turned into rubble, houses that have been there for 100 years and have so much character and history that could never be replaced.

The same goes for all the trees that are doomed to be cut down. These trees create and support ecosystems and take many years to grow. Buruwan Park is an amazing example of one of these ecosystems and it is going to be ripped up and flattened to the ground. Many local businesses that are so important for communities, have been closed down and are destined to be destroyed. A total of all of this destruction will cause Sydney to lose it's charm and beauty as well as break down the communities in these areas.

Thirdly I believe that WestConnex won't actually help the congestion on Sydney's roads and will cause worsening traffic conditions once cars arrive at certain points such as the Anzac and Iron Cove bridges. It's infuriating to think about the amount of money that is going into this project, that could be used for things that really do benefit the people of Sydney as well as the environment. Simply put, WestConnex is unsustainable. It is not here to solve the problem long term, and that is a big issue.

As long as there are cars on the road, there will always be congestion. The only solution is high quality and sustainable public transport.

Overall I strongly believe that this project will not benefit the people of Sydney. It will not reduce traffic. It will contribute to climate change and cause devastating health effects and will end up destroying all of the charming suburbs and amazing nature that makes Sydney such a beautiful place to be in.

I do not want my father, or any of my family members and friends in my community, to be a casualty of WestConnex.

Holly Gorman