

**Submission
No 277**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Mr John Laidler

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WestConnex construction in St Peters has demolished 80 houses, some of which were homes to friends of myself and my family. St Peters, always a small suburb, is now significantly smaller, and divided by a wide tollroad. In particular, children attending St Peters Public School from east of Campbell St will need to cross this new tollroad.

During construction so far I have been disturbed by noise, prevented from walking my usual routes to shopping, and unexpectedly encountered roadblocks while driving, sometimes forcing me to make illegal turns. The management of traffic and pedestrians has been poor, and those dressed in fluoro given these tasks have little knowledge of the local streets or residents' needs.

There is no proper justification for the WestConnex project, no serious consideration given to alternative transport options, and no transparency in the operations of the government nor the Sydney Motorway Corporation. Experts in transport planning see no virtue in the project, and regularly criticise it. The long term health and environmental effects have not been seriously addressed. I can only assume that the real beneficiaries of WestConnex are not the people of St Peters, nor, indeed, of wider Sydney.

I am particularly opposed to the allocation of land, acquired by compulsory acquisition, eviction and demolition, being used for a car park (between St Peters and Florence Streets, St Peters). It's not needed. Rather a park, some open space to counteract the tarmac and traffic that will be forced into Campbell St.