

**Submission  
No 285**

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

**Name:** Dr Sarina Kilham

**Date Received:** 30 August 2018

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**Dr. Sarina Kilham**

**30 August 2018**

**Re: Parliamentary Inquiry into Impacts of Westconnex**

Dear Public Accountability Committee,

I write to you as a local resident, and parent of children that attend both St Peters Public School and St Peters Community Preschool.

The negative impact of the Westconnex project on the physical, mental and emotional health of our family cannot be overstated. My children and I have been exposed to leachate gas that permeated our homes, our streets and the children's school. We've been exposed to the highest levels of particulate matter in Sydney and are daily exposed to traffic hazards and the nightmare of walking through a poorly managed construction site multiple times per day as we access the school.

I have kept my children home from school on the worst days, but now I wonder - have I done the right thing as parent? By having the bad luck of living near Westconnex, have I exposed them to a life of ongoing health issues? Should we have sold our house and left the community like many neighbours have done ?

We try to stay positive but the daily assault on our senses (the noise, the dust, the visual mess of the sites, the traffic reroutes and detours, and re-reroutes) is overwhelming. I've logged more than 50 unique complaints with Sydney Motorway Corporation (cc'd to NSW Planning, Inner West Council, EPA) but it makes little difference to feeling of being ignored, and the issues with the site management continue.

The fact that Westconnex was a NSW State Government project, and then the SMC privatised, blocking any Freedom of Information options stinks almost as bad as the rotten egg gas that was exposed. The fact that the budget blew out before it began is worth crying about — why wasn't this money spent on inland rail?

Why is the SMC making "donations" to the Department of Education for schools affected in the local area? The State Government gives funds to a private company to donate back to a different arm of the State Government?! After the SMC exposed all those children to high levels of air pollution, this action stinks of buying silence.

St Peters was a beautiful suburb with so much potential. Just 7km to the CBD — it is walkable —the shops, the park, schools, multiple public transport options. St Peters was a little gem and should have been developed into higher density housing that offered an excellent lifestyle to many families. Instead, it has been left a shell, a shattered community crushed by 6 lanes of traffic that will go nowhere.

**Sincerely**

**Dr. Sarina Kilham**

