

**Submission
No 301**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Peter Schneider

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The Director
c/- Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Public Accountability
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of WestConnex

Name: Peter Schneider

To the Director,

Please find my comments on the Inquiry into the impact of WestConnex based on the Terms of Reference as follows.

I agree to my name being published.

(b) The cost of WestConnex project, including the size and reasons for overruns

Both of these issues are significant and an indication of poor planning. They are however not surprising.

(c) The governance and structure of the WestConnex project including the relationship between Sydney Motorway Corporation, Roads and Maritime Services, the Treasury and its shareholding Ministers

I am not sufficiently informed for a consideration of these relationships.

(d) The compulsory acquisition of property for the project

Compulsory acquisitions of property and land are always a delicate issue. If a project has clear general benefit for the public and the manner in which acquisitions are conducted, values are agreed and compensation is provided is fair, equitable and appropriate, the impact on affected people and the resulting trauma on them (including people in neighbouring these properties) can be minimised. It should, however, always be avoided. Certainly the loss of a family home for a motorway is not OK.

(e) The recommendations of the Audit Office of New South Wales and the Australian National Audit Office in regards to WestConnex

see previous response

(f) The extent to which the project is meeting the original goals of the project as articulated in 2012

the original goals were perhaps not articulated clearly in 2012, and it is likely that this was the case on purpose.

(g) The relationship between WestConnex and other toll road projects including the Sydney Gateway, Western Harbour Tunnel, F6 and Beaches Link

I don't have enough information to give this consideration.

(h) The circumstances by which WestConnex and the Sydney Gateway were declared to be separate projects in 2017

I don't have enough information to give this consideration.

(i) The cost of the project against its current valuation as determined through the sale of the Sydney Motorway Corporation and whether it represents a good investment for NSW taxpayers

I don't have enough information to give this consideration.

Though I am of the firm opinion that a good investment for NSW taxpayers does not result in more roads, but in more and much better public transport and alternate transport projects.

(j) Any other related matter

I am not convinced that the project will improve traffic conditions. Indeed, if other cities around the world with similar projects are to serve as an example, it will aggravate it. The impact on residents through loss of quality of life and in many cases decrease of the value of their properties, is significant and - this is crucial - has only negative qualities.