

**Submission
No 304**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Jim Lowe
Date Received: 31 August 2018

August 2018

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: Jim Lowe

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.

(a) The adequacy of the business case for the WestConnex project, including the cost-benefits ratio

The business case has never met the minimum test for value for money and the lack of real benefits for the yet-to-be-revealed final pricetag should cost the NSW Liberal party dearly in votes at the next election.

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

The current projected cost is much larger than originally stated, and will continue to blow out as the real (lack of) value of the project comes uunder public scrutiny as it should have long ago.

(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

All in bed together.

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

The recommendations of the Audit Office of NSW and the National Audit Office shuold rightly take precedence over the Liberal National governments uncritical use of public funds.

(j) Any other related matter

The lack of transparency of the expected benefits of the project versus the monetary cost and the reduction in living quality for those in Newtown, Erskineville, St Peters and Alexandria neighbourhoods and the entire King Street and Euston Road corridor makes the entire project seem like nothing more than a political giveaway to developers. The obviously haphazard manner in which the plans continue to be developed even as the Westconnex link is already under construction further bolster this notion: no proper costing, no risk/benefit analysis, just a giveaway of taxpayer money and the destruction of the Newtown/Alexandria/Erskineville/St Peters area without any meaningful benefit.