

**Submission
No 353**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

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Submission: Impact of the WestConnex Project Inquiry.

There needs to be a public inquiry into the WestConnex Project in relation to:-

- Why it eventuated in the first place, and how it got off the ground when absolutely no-one aside from greedy corporates who are involved in the project wanted it.

Politicians are elected by the people in good faith that they will listen to the people, and serve the people in the interests that best fit the community, environment, and the future of the country. The politicians involved in this project should be sacked! In cases like this parliament should run a national survey, or plebiscite to hear exactly what the majority of the population wants. Just like the same sex plebiscite which I am sure the outcome surprised parliament, the same process applies in these instances. Therefore, why was a plebiscite not run on this project? I challenge parliament to do this.

The people of Sydney DO NOT WANT Westconnex. No-one wanted Sydney, a once beautiful city, to be shadowed by all this construction, concrete, chimney stacks, it's just pure and simply UGLY! It is similar to being surrounded by Liddell state Mine in the Hunter Valley.

No-one wanted this project to go ahead. It is not just the environmental impact; congestion of traffic; concerns over emissions from ventilation stacks; concerns on air quality; noise pollution, but the simply logic that providing more roads is not the answer, but an exacerbation to the problem. We are a growing population and are continuing to grow. It would be more logically to provide a better underground transport system similar to London, and Paris, and over ground transport system like that in Japan that will move large quantities of people in a short period of time. A transport system that effectively connects all key areas, and is environmentally and sustainably clean!

By providing the population with more roads results in more people driving and not using public transport. When these roads fill up and get congested then people demand more lanes or more roads, but to what avail. Suddenly,

before anyone realises our city starts looking like the overpass in Chongqing municipality in China; or the G4 Beijing-Hong-Kong-Macau 25 lane expressway! This is not conducive to a green environment or a sustainable future. If there are less roads, narrower roads (like in Japan), then it forces the population to realise how overpopulated we are; and the problems that come with overpopulation; it educates the people to strive for a better future; it teaches people endurance, patience, and forces people to be more thoughtful, and reflective, and considerate in relation to their future and the generations that will follow.

- The cost of this project is insane! It is disgraceful that politicians are even on board to this project when money is urgently needed in other areas such as housing, health, and infrastructure. It is a 'slap in the face' for the average and below average person who struggles to survive in this city that is becoming one of the most expensive cities to live in. Who will bear the cost when the average person is struggling with the cost of living and already high taxes? Also, who is behind the decision making on the compulsory acquisition of property and how much people should be paid out and the ramifications of this? Why not put the money into getting the homeless off the street; and into the huge problems and issues confronting our indigenous population out in Northern Territory? I would rather my taxes be spent in this direction.
- I believe there needs to be a parliamentary inquiry into why parliamentarians are in the pockets of the corporates and pay no heed to those that elected them into these positions in the first place, it's a disgrace – sack them all and start again!