

**Submission  
No 385**

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

**Organisation:** Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex

**Date Received:** 10 September 2018

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## **SUBMISSION: THE IMPACT OF WESTCONNEX**

### **Summary: Air pollution, the next asbestos**

**The most disturbing impact of the extensive WestConnex project is increased air pollution and its distribution, not only in the inner west but also in the Sydney basin, as it will be responsible for major public health problems and increased deaths.**

### **There is a substantial body of evidence attesting to the public health impacts:**

- Professor Paul Torzillo, Senior Respiratory Physician RPA, University of Sydney. Address to Camperdown Community Meeting, May 2017  
<https://www.facebook.com/Spontaneous45/videos/1564216746923418/>
- Dr Ray Nasser, Specialist Anaesthetist, Westmead “Literature Review of Health Impacts of Air and Traffic Pollution”,  
<https://www.facebook.com/NoWestconnex/videos/vb.176486265827123/990947534420062/?type=2&theater>

### **These adverse health impacts include:**

- one third of cancer deaths due to air pollution (WHO), 3000 people in Australia
- increased deaths from cardiovascular disease, stroke, respiratory disease
- increased hospital admissions due to major illnesses
- increased chronic conditions such as asthma and school days missed
- detrimental impacts on the most vulnerable (children’s developing lungs, elderly, those with chronic pulmonary diseases) in our community
- cumulative stress resulting in physical health impacts due to dust, noise and vibration, especially during the 5 years of construction at dive sites, along tunnel routes, with increased truck movements along access routes, Jozefa Sobski Haberfield resident and Haberfield Association member, Address to Camperdown Community Meeting May 2017  
<https://www.facebook.com/Spontaneous45/videos/1573374016007691/>

**There is well established research that states there is no safe limit of (2.5microns or 10microns) particulate matter:**

- at least 30pc of air pollution in major cities due to traffic-related pollution
- use of diesel increases dangerous particulates, more than 30pc of vehicular fuel used Phillip Adams, Radio National Late Night Live 4/9/18 [http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2018/09/lnl\\_20180904\\_2220.mp3](http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2018/09/lnl_20180904_2220.mp3)
- huge increase in truck movements to/from dive sites, tunnel construction all using diesel <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/trucks-westconnex-documents-traffic-congestion-transport-20180812-p4zx18.html>
- toxic fumes at tunnel portals increase hazardous risks
- lack of filtering of toxic exhaust fumes from tunnels will exacerbate problems locally

Already there are cases in London where child deaths have been reported and court action led to successful prosecutions of local authorities.

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/31/proof-air-pollution-killed-my-daughter-ella-new-inquest?CMP=fb\\_gu](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/31/proof-air-pollution-killed-my-daughter-ella-new-inquest?CMP=fb_gu)

**Livability** has been an important world measure of Sydney's quality of life; however, this is now falling out of the global Top 10 due to the lack of public transport infrastructure. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-on-top-for-liveability-but-falling-behind-on-public-transport-20180724-p4ztaq.html>

**As a major global city, Sydney needs and deserves a world class public transport**, not a 1950's motorway system that will create major health problems through dramatically increasing air pollution. Indeed, there are some health experts that argue air pollution with small particular matter will become **the next asbestos**.

<https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/best-practice/legal/legislation-updates/is-air-quality-the-next-asbestos/10025658.article>

**We also strongly object to the WestConnex Project on the following grounds:**

### **Business Case**

The business case has not been publicly available and fully developed considering alternative cost-benefits such as public transport and demand management.

WestConnex will not solve Sydney's congestion, as traffic researchers have demonstrated: the well-established principle of increased user capacity of motor vehicles is exceeded in the short term.

### **Budget**

The current budget of 16.8 billion for WestConnex, plus additional road access construction costs up to a total of \$40 billion, are excessively heavy on NSW taxpayers, especially those from Western Sydney who will need to use the tollways to get to work without decent public transport and with tradies needing to use their vehicles.

### **Governance and Structure**

The secretive nature of the project through the commercial- in-confidence restrictions through SMC and RMS; poor public consultation processes conducted as PR failed to inform and consult communities living in affected areas; failure to respond adequately to most of the issues raised in the EIS with over 12,000 submissions; have demonstrated that this project with taxpayers funds has not been conducted in the communities' interests.

### **Conclusion**

**Our community of Camperdown Residents (CRAW) urgently requests that these matters be examined thoroughly by your Committee, as they have not been given due scrutiny to date in this highly politicised WestConnex project. WestConnex is a shocking threat to public health and well being and should be halted immediately, pending a full inquiry into safer and better-value infrastructure.**

Lesley Treleaven (Dr)

Convenor, Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex (CRAW)