

**Submission
No 397**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Ms Jenny Taubman

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28. .8, 2018

Public Accountability Committee
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Sydney

Dear Committee Members,

I am deeply concerned about the impact of the WestConnex project on Johnston Street, Annandale. Without urgent reconsideration of the current plans, I fear the project is doomed to significant cost overruns.

Inner West Council warns the construction and operating impacts of the White Bay Civil Site will have "an enormous traffic impact on Johnston Street, Annandale". Heavy vehicle use at a volume of 21 vehicles per hour is expected along Johnston Street between 5am and 9am week days and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays. That is a total of 85 heavy vehicle movements per morning, six days a week.

How can such a plan possibly work? Johnston Street is already a major transport corridor seven days a week. Two important cross-streets, Booth and Collins, require traffic lights to facilitate the movement of long traffic queues needing to cross Johnston Street during morning and evening peaks. The intersection at Booth requires the movement of 82 buses across Johnston Street between the hours of 5am and 9am each morning to transport commuters to work in the city.

The WestConnex plan ignores the fact that Johnston Street has three distinct and separate school zones which require all motorists to slow to 40 kilometres an hour between the hours of 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm on week days. Johnston Street is also the route for Inner West Council's Leichhardt Local Link free community bus which assists less mobile citizens access health services, community facilities and shops.

Johnston Street provides a number of important community services which rely on ease of access. Apart from three local schools and one TAFE college, it houses two retirement villages (which require vehicular access including minibus and ambulance seven days a week), three churches (which require vehicular access on weekends), separate neighbourhood centre and creative arts centre, shopping/dining precincts, as well as vital commercial outlets, such as doctor's surgery, post office, service station – all requiring vehicular access seven days a week.

Surely this is a recipe for disaster? I believe this project as it currently stands has the potential to decimate my suburb and flies in the face one of WestConnex's original goals – connecting communities. Please reconsider this plan before it is too late. Thank you for considering my submission.

Jenny Taubman