

Submission  
No 409

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 30 August 2018

---

Partially  
Confidential

Legislative Council, Committees  
NSW Parliament  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

30 Aug, 2018

### Submission: Inquiry into the impacts of the WestConnex project

Sydney wants and needs world class public transportation, not more polluting toll roads.

Global experience of major toll road construction has demonstrated conclusively that projects like WestConnex increase air pollution, encourage more car use, fleece road users with exorbitant tolls and eventually fill the increased road capacity they create.

WestConnex is shaping up as the most expensive road project in the world but it won't solve Sydney's congestion problem. I oppose this project because:

- The **business case** does not properly consider alternatives such as public transport and demand management.
- The **budget** is now \$16.8 billion – a 68% increase on the original estimate.
- A project of this scale, using taxpayer's funds, should be subject to rigorous assessment but both the NSW Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia have criticised the **governance** of this project.
- Hundreds of homes, businesses and parklands will be **compulsorily acquired**.
- It is diverting funding from **public transport** which is desperately needed across Sydney.

#### In particular:

**Health** - WestConnex will turn Rozelle into a dumping ground for toxic exhaust fumes with unfiltered **exhaust stacks** at the Rozelle Rail Yards and one at Victoria Road at Iron Cove Bridge.

It is of great concerns to me & family the WestConnex will impact negatively on the health and wellbeing of residents in the inner west. We are specifically concerned by the proposal to locate an unfiltered exhaust stack along Victoria Road near Iron Cove Bridge Rozelle. If proceeding, it will be metres away from our home, Rozelle Public School, nearby parks & well established residential areas. Increasing toxic pollution levels and breathing in of particulate matters from vehicle exhaust will affect the lungs and health in general. The policy of using unfiltered exhaust stacks is against world best practice and pays no regard to the wellbeing of the residents nearby.

This project overall will lock Western Sydney residents into non-active transport which will have long term negative health impacts on generations of people. Additionally the negative health impacts of using this series of long tunnels over the short and long term are unacceptable due to the increased levels of toxic exhaust pollution concentrated in these tunnels.

**Traffic** – It is of concern that the traffic studies done are biased & inadequate. They have to be thoroughly verified and agreed to by experts in bipartisan manner. Traffic in the Inner West is already chaotic. It could only get worse during the construction period which might extend over many years. Based on experiences of many major toll way projects elsewhere, traffic usages of the new facilities are overestimated and adverse traffic impacts are often understated in order to justify the project.

I am writing with sincere hope that the Committee will take into consideration all of my concerns.

Yours faithfully