

Submission  
No 410

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 August 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

Re: Concerns affecting Ghandos St,  
and Impact of the Westconnex Project.

In 2016, construction work in a tract of land along Parramatta Rd, Ashfield, between Bland St and Ashfield Park commenced, to allow for extra lane construction, extension of the underground tunnels and entry/exit points for the Westconnex Project. Closure of the intersections of Parramatta Rd at Orphington and Chandos St enabled a huge fenced-worksite to be constructed along the tract.

Strata Block, faces Chandos St, the side fence line parallel with Parramatta Rd. Demolition of nearby properties and trees and clearing of land means our property is now adjacent to the new lanes and the Parramatta Rd / Chandos St intersection.

The closure of the Intersection led to a reduced parking capacity for residents living close to the worksite, increased traffic flow up Chandos St and through Loftus St and continuous delays for residents being able to access driveways. With no pedestrian access to buses along Parramatta Rd schoolchildren, workers and shoppers faced a long walk to public transport. The continued presence of work vehicles, equipment and Westconnex personnel entering the worksite and parking along the fenced perimeter was frustrating.

As excavation and digging commenced, rising dust, poor air quality, consistent noise and water erosion - flooding along the gutter line, and across the driveway became issues. With five windows opening directly onto Parramatta Rd and the worksite it became necessary to keep the windows closed. Noise levels increased.

Watermain diversion work and electric cable installation under the paved walkway across the front of the property towards Loftus St resulted in a break in telephone <sup>(Telstra line)</sup> communication. Following land excavation and the laying of new pipes and cables and the installation of new stormwater drainage pits our pit became full of water - again cutting off telephone communication.

The elm trees in our back yard along the side fence line had to be demolished as a safety issue / hazard linked with underground pond construction. The fence line was removed for <sup>property</sup> access and is yet to be replaced.

Meetings with Westconnex liaison personnel during 2016/17 were constructive, and led to a survey of the Unit and offer of Acoustic Treatment - which failed to address vibration and increasing noise issues both day and night. With the introduction of new overhead light poles and wiring - night work became a nightmare with interrupted sleep patterns due to the number of street lights, the flash of ~~both~~ vehicle lights or work equipment and passing car-head and tail lights.

During 2018 the temporary wooden noisebarrier which had assisted with noise dispersement and fumes from traffic using the new lanes was removed. The changing gradient and contours of the land are now apparent. Traffic moving along the new lanes towards the west are on a descending then rising slope as they pass by our complex. Early morning and evening traffic is slowing down and becoming congested as they approach Bland Street. The noise associated with vehicles braking and the changing light patterns is more intense and visible through the Unit windows.

After the cement work for new pavement / walkways and road kerbs were laid, garden beds were planted. Chandos St is still closed to traffic, <sup>but</sup> work continues along the Haberfield side of Parramatta Rd. Many of the lights along the land tract are not yet switched on. When work is complete and the tunnels are operationable how much vibration, noise, air pollution and lighting issues will develop?

- Will vehicles detour via Chandos St to escape rising toll costs?
- The turn into/out of Chandos St is roughly 90° and not far from our sloping driveway entrance. Safety needs to be a high priority!
- Will there be a limit on the size / weight of turning vehicles?
- What speed restrictions will be put in place along the turn-off lane?
- Is there a need for a Zebra Crossing for pedestrians, particularly children and the elderly, walking along the Parramatta Rd footpath to cross Chandos St.
- Will traffic turning into/out of Chandos St via Parramatta Rd affect traffic flow for the residents of Chandos St especially access to the large 5 storey Strata Block close to Bland St?
- What effect might an increasing flow of traffic using access via Chandos St have on Parking (ie the number of sites and timing restrictions)?

The cost of implementing this program, providing compensation, and addressing issues as they arise, is mindblowing.

I do hope you can include the above concerns in your personal and/or Inner West Council submission.

Many Thanks,