

**Submission
No 425**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Bill Bennett

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To Whom It May Concern

Although this project started to complete a long running deficit in the Sydney Road Transport Network ie the western highway upgrade stopping at Strathfield, most realistic people would have expected a long tunnel option. This was always the most expensive solution. The current design proposal and business plan seems to go beyond this totally – open ended design as you go proposal corrupted in our view.

It will create a pay wall toll legacy for the people of the western suburbs forever after it's sale to trans urban and a health and public transport network legacy to us the people it drives through and under in the inner west. The rat running and drive arounds have not been well predicted. The narrowing of the City West Link lands is going to create a traffic black spot of side swiping incidents and other issues. Unfiltered exhaust stacks pumping gases and fine particulates into the local communities at high concentrations is unacceptable particularly Bridge Road/parramatta Road site where it is such close proximity to the Australia Street public school. If it is to go ahead it is almost like you are trying to kill those children.

The Lilyfield interchange is probably going to be the most complex project in Australian history – it is going to make the Snowy Mountain scheme look like a weekend picnic by way of tunnelling and engineering complexity. I do not think it has been well planned or thought through and it is unlikely to come in anywhere near on budget. It is going to have unfiltered stacks discharging poisonous gas and particulate pollution in a low lying area in a densely populated area that you are selling off as a lovely new urban park following the project's completion. If the budget stretches to any serious landscaping it is not going to be anything that anybody is going to want to frequent. It is probably going to be so polluted that it will be an unviable situation for plant life so let's be realistic about what you are handing over to the local residents of this area. Not much more than a weed infested, toxic urban waste land. This can be demonstrated by the maintenance conducted by the RTA current contractors following the completion of the City West Link in the year 2000. Really quite ordinary.

The process of consultation with the local community has been a joke. We have been marginalised, we have had our council amalgamated, our democratic rights suspended, protestors have been arrested, threatened with fines and jail terms for merely protesting against a retrograde poorly designed project with a lot of serious concerns as outlined in my submission.

BILL BENNETT