

Submission
No 427

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 3 September 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of the WestConnex Project

Dear Committee Members,

Westconnex has left a trail of physical, emotional and financial destruction... the fakeness of the RMS was beyond us.

We were promised and assured that we would not be out of pocket for 'progress' that was going to help relieve congestion for the community.

To make it clear, we did not want to move... 60 years of ownership at the same address. Never had we thought to sell or move!

We were told that it will happen with or without our cooperation. It caused me and my family **extreme anxiety**.

To explain, we live in [redacted] and travel to Sydney every month. My husband suffers from a rare condition, so we are always in and out of RPA Hospital. Our property at St Peters was very close to the hospital.

Our property was a 3br house which we rented out, it was our only source of income. We stayed in the 1br self-contained house at the back.

Once the word was out sharks were knocking at our door.

The worst was Slater and Gordon, we thought they were working for us but it didn't seem like it, we were correct in thinking so.

At the time I had documented prices of homes that were sold, a few doors down and around the corner etc. Our offers from RMS never came close. It wasn't just negotiations regarding the value of the home, it was everything that happened and continues to happen after.

Our St. Peters home was taken. Our home was a dual dwelling in a prime location, and impossible to replace.

Homes in that area are mostly auctioned. We attended over 100 open homes. Never did the prospective seller want to sell prior to auction, I understood... I have videoed a few auctions it is a well organised transaction, the auctioneer takes control like a ring master at a circus.

We did receive some money to purchase outside the area, but it didn't cover all the costs. We did not receive any compensation for loss of rent.

The RMS evicted my tenants and threatened them. They demanded 4 months rent from the date they took the house, and threatened to throw them out and put their belongings on the street if they didn't pay.

It was a long stress full experience that is still continuing on. We weren't happy with the offer at all. It was nowhere near what our property was worth. We were unable to buy another property like we had in St Peters.

During those times, _____ and I suffered a few health setbacks, burdening others to accompany us to negotiation hearings, auctions, bank appointments etc.

_____ s _____ and has a mortgage! For almost two years we have not received an income.

The St. Peters property was our income and retirement fund. Providing for our future.

The outcome of the Land and Environment Court hearing was we were to be **reimbursed for everything**. That has not happened!

We are still waiting for them to reimburse our legal costs from the Court hearing a year and half ago. The RMS demanded 20% 'discount' if we wanted to receive the money by Christmas, we had no choice and agreed, but they never paid. We keep asking when we'll receive the money, but we don't hear anything from them.

RMS and the lawyers should be held accountable!

Paying for the new house has made life difficult to live. And to be frank we are barely living.

We request to give evidence at the Inquiry, please free to contact us.

Regards,