

Submission  
No 438

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 August 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Westconnex M4 East motorway proposal due to the many health risks it poses, the environmental damage it will cause and its devastating affect on local communities and people's homes.

Since I was six years old I lived in Rozelle with my parents and little sister and have felt extremely lucky to be in a suburb that has such a vibrant community – one that has provided long-lasting friendships with our neighbours and other locals. We now fear for our home, our community, our environment, health and our general wellbeing due to the proposed Westconnex tunnel and exhaust stacks that will be built at the top of my family's street near the Iron Cove Bridge and around the area of Rozelle and connecting suburbs.

Since the Westconnex project started it has caused communities to fall apart, people to be torn away from their homes, natural environments and wildlife to be destroyed, and individuals to experience severe emotional stress and depression from the noise and pollution created by this project. My family home is within 100 metres from one of the proposed unfiltered smoke stacks that will pour carcinogenic fumes out over the area. This means they are also 100 metres from where there will be 24/7 construction work for years as these roads are built - creating noise pollution that will affect their sleep, and dust that will affect their lungs. Because of this proposal the value of my parent's house has already dropped, and it will continue to decline even further once construction starts. If they wanted to move away from the health risks they would struggle to afford another home that is close to their friends and community, as well as my Nana who lives within 400 metres of the proposed exhaust stack. It is devastating to know that for the sake of my family's health they must consider leaving our family home where we have some of the best memories of our lives. It feels like no matter how much sentiment is held in that house, or how many friends we have made in the community, the devastating effect of having Westconnex on our door is far too great to stay.

The costs created by the physical and emotional trauma caused by the proposed Westconnex project will be great and will put further pressure on our public health system. My father survived bladder cancer when I was little and his doctor explained that exposure to carcinogenic air pollution creates an even greater risk to humans than exposure to cigarette smoke. The four proposed unfiltered stacks in Rozelle should not be allowed as they will expose locals, including the children at Rozelle Public School, to carcinogenic fumes from cars and trucks using the tunnels. Diesel fuel in particular (used by most trucks) has carcinogenic particles that are so small they can be absorbed through human skin. This level of toxic fumes to be left unfiltered should not be allowed, and the location of the stacks should be reconsidered so they are not near schools.

The environmental impact the Westconnex project will have is also extreme. While other major cities are moving away from car dependency and are focusing on creating better public transport systems and long-term plans for easing traffic congestion, the planned Westconnex project encourages car use and has not considered logical steps to provide Sydney with the state-of-the-art public transport system it needs and deserves.

I hope you will seriously consider the concerns I have raised and will put the lives of the people of Sydney first before approving such a socially and environmentally devastating project.

Regards,