

Submission
No 451

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The most annoying thing regarding the whole WestConnex project is the lack of regard for the environment and the hoodwinking tactics employed by the government to try and over inflate their environmental credentials.

Not only is encouraging car use by building new roads proven to increase the amount of traffic and be bad for the environment, for this particular project they seem to have an obsession destroying open spaces and removing trees.

In particular, I take offence at their claim to replant 800+ trees. The government's definition of a 'tree' is basically a twig in a bucket and would not meet any definition of 'tree' in the normal sense. (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/governments-change-to-definition-of-a-tree-draws-accusations-of-sneaky-tactics-20171125-gzsw2a.html>).

I would like the enquiry to investigate how the project planning and costing process incorporates the cost of destroying trees into the evaluation of the project. For example, does the destruction of mature fig trees carry as much weight as the destruction of someone's home or property? I think the preservation and defence of open spaces, trees and homes comes very low in the government's priorities when evaluating projects such as WestConnex - in stark contrast to the the views of local residents who don't want to see their neighbourhoods destroyed.