

Submission
No 458

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

I am concerned about the project's effect on air quality.

In relation to the terms of reference:

1(i) The lack of appropriate regulation of air quality costs the public health care system by causing serious disease and premature death, and cannot be a 'good investment' if it is causing taxpayers and their children to literally die of heart and lung disease;

1(c) The lack of proper regulation shows terrible governance and structure of the project.

The independent air quality assessment produced by Todoroski Air Sciences for the Department of Planning notes on page 12 that there is no "specific NSW guideline for assessing air quality for major road projects. Developing such a guideline, or in the interim adapting a guideline from another jurisdiction would ensure that all key issues are considered reasonably, and consistently...".

The same report notes at Page 10: "The [methodological] approach taken [in this report] does not allow scope to evaluate the possible issue of the Project potentially leading to levels above a criteria or standard in some specific locations. This is a moot point at present as the EPA criteria and NEPM standards do not apply to road projects. The issue may be relevant should any future road project assessment guideline set out an applicable criterion."

Why does the EPA criteria not apply to road projects?

Why are there no guidelines for assessing air quality on major road projects? We know that road projects (and roads) have terrible outcomes for air quality, so it is completely irresponsible for the government to willfully ignore this issue. This inquiry should address the need for proper regulation to reduce the enormous cost it has on taxpayers health, and ultimately the public health system.