

Submission
No 468

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

SUBMISSION FOR THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPACTS OF WESTCONNEX (due 31st August 2018)

I strongly object to the the WestConnex M4-M5 Link as a whole, as I believe the project will worsen the traffic situation in the inner city area and there are many smarter solutions around better public transport infrastructure.

But most of all, I am shocked that the health of residents in the Rozelle area seems to be mercilessly sacrificed to this project.

FILTERED AIR STACKS

If the project proceeds, at the very least, the three air stacks proposed for the Rozelle Interchange should be filtered. If not, the Government, rather than being proud of accomplishing an expensive engineering feat, should feel deeply, deeply ashamed.

The entire proposed project - the largest infrastructure for cars in the Southern Hemisphere - consists of the M4-M5 link, the Iron Cove Tunnel, and the Western Harbour Tunnel, all culminating in the inner west at the Rozelle Interchange. At this Interchange there would be entry and exit portals to several tunnels of 6 lanes each. These entry/exit portals will have cars queuing, accelerating and decelerating as they come and go in and out of the tunnels. This in itself would be highly polluting, but in addition to this, the atmosphere around the Rozelle Interchange would be subject to the accumulated exhaust from the actual tunnels, being emitted via three unfiltered air stacks. We are told it's too expensive to filter them. What about the health of your citizens!

Rozelle is heavily residential, full of young families, but also older people who have lived much of their lives in the area. Difficult now for them to relocate away from their support networks, to escape ongoing stress from the 5 years of disruption while the project is being built and then at project completion, heavily polluted air.

Rozelle, around the proposed Interchange, is a valley. The pollution from unfiltered air stacks on still days would not be dispersed into the atmosphere, but just hang in the area. At the very least these air stacks should be filtered.

Just opposite the Rozelle Interchange, about 150 metres away, is popular Easton Park with its children's playground and many sports activities. Would the government really allow the three air stacks to be unfiltered where children play, where football, cricket etc is played, where people walk their dogs, where community gathers to enjoy the outside?

Professor Paul Torzillo, Head of Respiratory Medicine at RPA Hospital has condemned the unfiltered stacks as irresponsible. Dr Ray Nassar, Anaesthetist and specialist in health impacts of air pollution and unfiltered air stacks, has warned of increased negative health impacts, including cancer clusters, and warned that governments should adopt a precautionary principle

in regards to public health. He also warned that tunnel users themselves will be exposed to dangerously high levels of pollution within the tunnels.

RAT RUNS

I also have a concern that there appear to be no measures to protect local roads from becoming rat runs from drivers avoiding tolls or from those who simply dislike driving in tunnels.

SHALLOW TUNNELLING

I also strongly object to the very shallow tunnelling proposed under houses close to the Rozelle Interchange. The EIS states that shallow tunnelling could cause damage to properties due to settlement of up to 35 millimetres. There is no indication of any compensation to residents for the constant stress of possible property damage, nor for anxiety and depression about the degradation of their financial investment in what was once a quiet residential location.

There just has not been enough consideration of citizens living close to the Interchange. In my own case, when I purchased my Rozelle house in 1998, there were no plans for this type of project. I have established my social networks - including being fortunate to have my younger family moving to Rozelle to be close to me. Now, with the threat of the WestConnex, we are unable to move elsewhere due to the costs of selling and buying, and the emotional upset and trauma of breaking up the family, finding alternative accommodation, breaking the long-held social ties & networks, and established relationships with doctors, schools etc. If we stay we'll have years of dirty construction works and traffic issues, and at the end, serious air pollution. At least, spare us potential health problems by using our tax-payers money to FILTER the air stacks. As stated, three stacks are planned down the road, not just one. And not just accumulated tunnel emissions polluting the atmosphere from these unfiltered air stacks, but also, the build-up of car exhaust in the area from acceleration, deceleration & queuing at the entry/exit portals.

As a taxpayer, I live in hope that those responsible for spending the budget and caring for the wellbeing of its citizens, will ensure that the lives of the citizens of Rozelle will not be ruined by this Project.

I would also appreciate a written reply to the objections raised in my submission in regards to the impacts on residents close to the Rozelle Interchange.

Thank you,