

Submission
No 471

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

My submission is that the Public Accountability Committee enquire into and report on the impact of the WestConnex project with specific reference to:

Public transport alternatives: The business case does not properly consider alternatives such as public transport. Why was a toll road given preference over public transport?

The compulsory acquisition of property for the project. Why did this necessitate the demolition of houses and businesses throughout the area. Many of these houses were of heritage value. What was the compensation provided - did it match market value? The true cost of the project. The NSW government states the cost of building WestConnex is in the region of \$16.8 billion. However, The City of Sydney puts it closer to \$45.3 billion and rising, once the cost of upgrades needed to publicly funded roads to funnel traffic onto the tollways is included. I would like the true cost of the entire project to be ascertained including the size and reasons for overruns.

Environmental impact: I would also like to know the environmental impacts of the unfiltered ventilation stacks will be built as part of the project - especially the impacts on local schools. I do not believe these impacts have been adequately addressed at present. Traffic: I would also like to raise issue of the ongoing impact on traffic in the inner west. The construction of this project has led to changes in traffic flows and congestion around the area. In some instances I have found these changed traffic conditions bordering on dangerous.

The WestConnex project has had, in my opinion, caused irreparable damage to the social and environmental well being of the inner west of the city - not to mention the financial burden the State will now carry due as a result of ever increasing cost of the project.