

Submission
No 498

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission for Westconnex inquiry:

- I lived at Church St, St. Peter's from July 2016 to April 2018. This property was directly next to the Westconnex work site running down Campbell St.
- The way that the Westconnex has treated the local residents of St. Peter's is absolutely appalling. Threatening small children to life-threatening toxic materials, harassing women leaving their homes on the way to work, verbally assaulting local residents as they walk to and from their homes and denying the residents of St. Peter's the standard of living that is supposed to be given to each and every individual in this country, for example; running water.
- One of the most shocking experiences I encountered was when I noticed a pile of broken asbestos sitting less than 10 metres from my backyard. I have a photo of the trash pile that was clearly labelled "asbestos". As I took the photos, mothers and fathers walked past with their kids, as there is a primary school on this street (St Peter's Primary School). When I called to make a complaint I was ridiculed and ignored by the Westconnex contact number. They hung up on my four times in a row when I was simply trying to make a complaint and get the asbestos away from the kids and my dog that was a young puppy at the time. My room mate then witnessed Westconnex workers disposing of the asbestos with masks and rubber gloves, continuing to expose this deadly material to the residents of my street.
- This is absolutely disgusting. I am absolutely ashamed and appalled at the lack of respect for the community. They endangered the lives of small children who walk to and from school everyday, as well as everyone that lives on that street.
- I witnessed the demolition of the houses running down Campbell St. The dust that would blow onto our property was severe at times, our window shelves would often be covered in a black layer of dust if the window was left slightly open for a short period of time. We eventually had to leave the area because the dust was heavily impacting my partner's health.
- The management of the dust impacting the local residents was extremely poor. When they were demolishing the gigantic row of houses on Campbell St there would always be one person with a hose spraying water back and forth, that was the only form of dust management that I witnessed at the Westconnex site on Campbell St. There were several times when they would be demolishing houses without someone spraying water for protection. This kind of cheap laziness is disgusting and directly impacts the health of the residents living near by.
- As a result of the demolitions on Campbell St, my house now has cracks all over the ceiling and walls. There are cracks running for over 2 metres from the ceiling down to the bottom of the windows. When I made called Westconnex and made complaints about these cracks and the dust, I was told that there was nothing they could do, and when I asked more about how we could resolve the issue they would hang up on me.
- One day my girlfriend was leaving for work in the morning around 9AM. As she exited the door there were 10-15 men standing outside the front of our house that aggressively stared at her as she exited the front door. They then whistled and made cat calls towards her. After confronting the workers and calling the Westconnex help line, I was told that there was nothing I could do to take further action against these workers, and that they were working on the street and therefore

allowed to stare and whistle at people. This is absolutely disgraceful conduct made on behalf of the Westconnex. They covered up sexual abuse and heavily discouraged further action by hanging up on me several times and not allowing me to make a complaint.

- Every morning going to work, my girlfriend had to leave our front door and be confronted by a large group of aggressive men that would stare at her and make her feel intimidated. This happened every day that there was Westconnex work happening on my street, and whenever I called to complain about it I was either not allowed to make a complaint or they hung up on me. I tried to take these matters further, contacting the local council, the media and several Facebook groups, but because the Westconnex denied it and never allowed me to make a legitimate complaint I was completely ignored.

- The workers on the Westconnex site verbally abused my girlfriend, and intimidated her on a daily basis. Everyday she left for work and there would be 10-20 men harassing her as she walked out the front door. What is even more disgusting is that the Westconnex and the local council both ignored this issue. I am disgusted by the actions of the Westconnex company, the Westconnex workers, the Westconnex representative at the local council as well as the local, state and federal governments. Covering up sexual abuse and ignoring the pleas of the local community. Disgusting.

- The residents of Church St all woke up one morning to get ready for work. To much surprise the water was not running. We could not use the toilet, shower, drink water, or even brush our teeth. This is absolutely disgusting behaviour from the Westconnex. When the representative from Sydney water came to fix the problem, he told me that the Westconnex workers had completely ignored our water pipe, even though it was clearly marked on the road. Because I had made previous complaints, the workers decided to connect every house on the street except ours, and they refused to come and fix it for a further 24 hours. I am shocked and disgusted that I would be treated like we're in a third world country, only here in Sydney, Australia. To be left without water for 2 days is absolutely shocking. I was raising a puppy at the time and I didn't have any water to give her, and we couldn't even use the toilet.

- I had to miss 2 days of work to resolve this issue, including waiting for the Sydney Water representative to arrive (I waited for hours with no ETA and was not given any courtesy or condolences), and also having to purchase large quantities and of water so that my young puppy wouldn't die. I feel ashamed to be living in this city after these events.

- One day I was leaving the house and on the way to a friends house. As I was riding down Campbell St I was confronted by a Westconnex worker, who was yelling swear words as I rode past. I stopped and asked the worker why he was yelling at me. He then continued to verbally abuse me, calling me a " " and also told me to " ". I was peacefully riding down the street next to which I lived, I did not confront or even look at this man when he started verbally assaulting me. I then called the Westconnex representative and explained to them what had just happened. He told me that he would contact the worker that had assaulted me and take him off the site. I was never offered any apology and I had to walk past that same man several times a week. Every time I walked past he purposefully ignored me, he never offered me an apology and he never had to suffer the consequences that is demanded by law.

- I am disgusted that this man who verbally assaulted me was let off the hook and never had to face assault charges. This man caused me post traumatic stress, and I was extremely uncomfortable with him working near the vicinity of my home. My wishes were again ignored, and I was treated very poorly by both the Westconnex and the local council.

- I am an Australian citizen, I spent my childhood growing up in Dulwich Hill, Sydney (just two train stops away from St. Peter's). This is my home and I am absolutely disgusted, shocked and appalled by the way myself and fellow Australia citizens have been treated.

- I believe that the incident regarding the asbestos (as previously mentioned) should be taken further, and that it was illegally dumped less than 10 meters from my house. At the time I tried to make complaints and called everyone from the local council to the media, no one listened or cared. I have photos of the asbestos that was illegally dumped and can supply these images if it will help prove that this was illegal activity that potentially threatened the lives of young children attending school on the very same street.

- I hope what I have written will be taken into account. I no longer live on Church St and my health and mental well-being has drastically improved. I believe that the way the local community has been treated appallingly, and it significantly impacts the health and well being of every single person living in a community where there is Westconnex construction.