

Submission  
No 504

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 28 August 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

To: Legislative Council, Committees  
NSW Parliament  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

including but not limited to the following:

**Chair:** Nile, Fred (CDP, LC Member)  
**Deputy Chair:** Mason-Cox, Matthew (LIB, LC Member)  
**Members:** Donnelly, Greg (ALP, LC Member)  
Field, Justin (GRNS, LC Member)  
Houssos, Courtney (ALP, LC Member)  
Khan, Trevor (NAT, LC Member)  
Ward, Natalie (LIB, LC Member)

From:

RE: Submission regarding the **Inquiry into the impacts of the WestConnex project**

The Rozelle community wants and needs world class public transport, not more polluting toll roads.

I write to express my objection to the polluting toll road, WestConnex, and the adverse ways in which this project will affect me and the Rozelle Community.

First and most important: world class public transport must take priority over this polluting roadway.

- Why? Because as demonstrated conclusively by global experience, projects such as WestConnex significantly increase air pollution; encourage more extensive car use adding wildly exorbitant tolls to commuters' commute; and largely don't live up to their projected usage.
- Predicted to be the most expensive road project *in the world*, this doomed project won't solve Sydney's congestion problem.

Addressing the following term of reference,

**Term of reference: (j) "any other related matter, I vehemently oppose this project.**

Following are the areas where I have strong objections and the reasons why:

### **Pollution effects on health:**

- There will be four un-filtered smoke stacks in Rozelle including one near Rozelle Public School.
- Engineer and tunnel expert Noel Childs, at a presentation on 25 August 2018 at the Hannaford Centre in Rozelle, indicated that there are severe dangers of pollution from unfiltered smokestacks in Rozelle. These particulates will reach ground level and will increase the pollution levels, which in turn cause cancer, asthma, heart conditions and breathing difficulties. The current plans for UNFILTERED smoke stacks present a clear and present danger to the Rozelle Community.
- These unfiltered, pollution generating smokestacks in Rozelle will have a direct effect on me and my family. I am an 81 year old pensioner with heart and breathing difficulties. I live on Park Street, only four blocks away from the unfiltered smokestack due to be positioned on Terry Street.
- My son, his partner and my two granddaughters live on Callan Street in Rozelle and will be less than 100 metres away from the unfiltered Terry Street smoke stack. The pollution that will spew from this stack, which will be constant for the foreseeable future can:
  - a) increase the possibility of cancer for my son, who has already been diagnosed with bladder cancer (main cause: pollution); and
  - b) increase the likelihood that my granddaughter, who has asthma, will be affected by the non-filtered pollution spewing from this same stack.
- I request that the inquiry to look into a speech made in made by Gladys Berejiklian in 2008 (<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/north-shore/gladys-berejiklian-accused-of-backflipping-on-smokestacks-after-comments-from-2008-revealed/news-story/4ae5ea6e5e079fe1735d9401612c3625>) where she “ slammed the then Labor Government over its Lane Cove Tunnel proposals — calling filtration of stacks “ethically right in the interests of ... health”.
- What’s changed? The Premier must explain while she is now defending unfiltered smokestacks in Rozelle that will have detrimental pollution effects on children in Rozelle Public School as well as people of all ages of the community. Are the people in Rozelle less valuable than the people of Willoughby?

### **Excessive noise from dive sights and construction 24/7 for at least 5-8 years from Stage 3 WestConnex**

- Constant high-decibel noise, especially during night time hours, will be present for an extended period of construction. This unrelenting noise will derive the community of sleep; have negative effects on peoples’ hearing ability and disrupt school and work activities in a wide circle around the construction area.

- My understanding is that there will be limited, if any, relief from the effects of noise levels on people in the community. I believe the Premier's suggestion is that people use ear plugs – hardly effective at such high noise levels.

### **Lack of transparency about the final plans for Stage 3 WestConnex**

- I belong to several groups in Rozelle that are concerned about the negative aspects of the WestConnex project. It has been extremely difficult for these groups to get any concrete information about the final route and effects of this project.
- How does this affect me? I live in Park Street, 20 metres from Darling Street. On the only published map I could find from the WestConnex website, it looks like there will be a tunnel built directly under my street.
- If that tunnel *will* be built under Park Street there are bound to be damages to my 100 year old fibro house. My understanding is that there will be no compensation for damages caused by WestConnex construction. As a pensioner I am not in a financial position to fix damages or pay court fees regarding potential damage.
- I ask the inquiry to demand that the WestConnex project be clearly documented immediately and available to any person in the area for clarity purposes.

### **Public transport....not roads**

- In a time when car usage has declined and is expected to keep on declining, public transport must be the first priority, not privatised roadways that will only benefit developers and not the public.
- The article by Melissa Jenkins reported by 9News makes a compelling argument about the decline in car usage, especially by the current generation of millennials. (<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/cars-no-more-a-symbol-of-freedom-for-young/news-story/0e122c69d7a175fbef1e14618606790e>).
- **To quote from this article, these facts mitigate AGAINST the construction of more roadways. Quote:** “Consumer services innovator Scott Browning, the chief executive of mobile start-up Quicker and former marketing director at JB Hi-Fi, says fewer people will own and drive a car in the future, because there won't be a need.
- Attitudes towards cars have changed, with technology and the internet changing the way people connect with family, friends and work, he said.
- “Connection and mobility have very little to do with cars anymore,” Mr Browning said. “Cars are just appliances, they're not the symbol of freedom that we had because that was the only way we could get out of the house as kids.”

- The state government must address the issues of the future of roads, rather than the issues of the past and present. They should be considering the trends and not wasting money on roads that will be obsolete.

In light of the above expressed concerns from myself and the Rozelle community, I implore the Parliament to consider all these negative effects on my suburb.

Stop Stage 3 of the WestConnex project; protect my community and provide for the much-needed public transportation that is needed now and into the future.

Respectfully submitted

NB: A hard copy of this submission will be mailed to the Parliament Inquiry address shown at the top.