

Submission  
No 519

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 August 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

To Whom it may concern,

The impact of Westconnex (namely the M5 Project) on myself and my housemates is huge and it affects every aspect of our lives. This is through means of noise invading our home on a regular basis, the location of the construction being right outside our door (and I mean literally), dust filling the air and our lungs daily, the inconvenience of no longer having proper access to our own home, and not having anywhere for people who visit or try to pick us up to gain access, along with emotional stresses of the whole ordeal.

My main issue, though, is the noise. Westconnex representatives have informed us repeatedly that they indeed have every legal right to make loud noises past midnight on weeknights; it just can't be for more than two consecutive days. If you think about that for just a minute from our point of view – this means that the most damage that can be done in one go is two sleepless nights. For a household of people who have full-time jobs this is just unacceptable, how are we supposed to function in our lives with no sleep? It is actually outrageous and this is what we have been dealing with for over six months. On top of this, the works proceed on weekend mornings from 8am (also completely allowed, apparently), which prevent us from getting any peace at all. We cannot spend the day at home watching TV or sleeping in, we simply do not have that option and will not for the foreseeable future, or so we've been told by Westconnex representatives.

When we do make our complaints about the noise (which we do often, as naturally we don't believe we should be enduring what we are forced to endure) we are promptly told that 'according to our sound modelling, we are not creating enough noise to warrant relocation'. Now who decided what decibels they have to reach in order for it to warrant alternate accommodation, I do not know, but I can assure you, as many others will, that we are being kept awake by the noise that Westconnex is making. We just are. No matter how many times Westconnex representatives insist that it is not loud, I would love to see how they would react if it were outside of their residences.

Aside from the noise, which affects our day-to-day lives we also have to endure the fact that our house is barely accessible, as there is no longer a road in front of our house, rather there is simply footpath and then a huge construction site. Even if we did attempt to move house it would be exceedingly difficult (not to mention expensive) to remove all of our furniture and belongings from our two-story, three-bedroom terrace. The car space has been inaccessible for approximately six months and my housemates (two of whom drive) have not been offered alternatives, and in fact, they are quite often issued fines as a result of not having anywhere to park, and of Westconnex workers taking up all of the parking spaces in the area. We also cannot invite over guests or have people pick us up as there is nowhere to park or stop near the house, which causes endless inconveniences.

Having endless billowing dust is just another unhealthy, unpleasant and probably dangerous addition to the situation, as people who have hay fever never have any peace and who knows what long-term damage this is doing to all of our insides (not to mention pets and passers-by as well). When they were initially digging up the site a few months ago, they reached where the rubbish tip used to be and there was a sulfuric acid smell for around a month, which cannot be a good thing to be breathing in on a daily basis.

I hope this information is helpful and you really do understand the extremity of the situation we are in, and how helpless and unimportant we really feel.

Thank you for reading.