

Submission
No 541

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX
PROJECT**

Name: Name suppressed

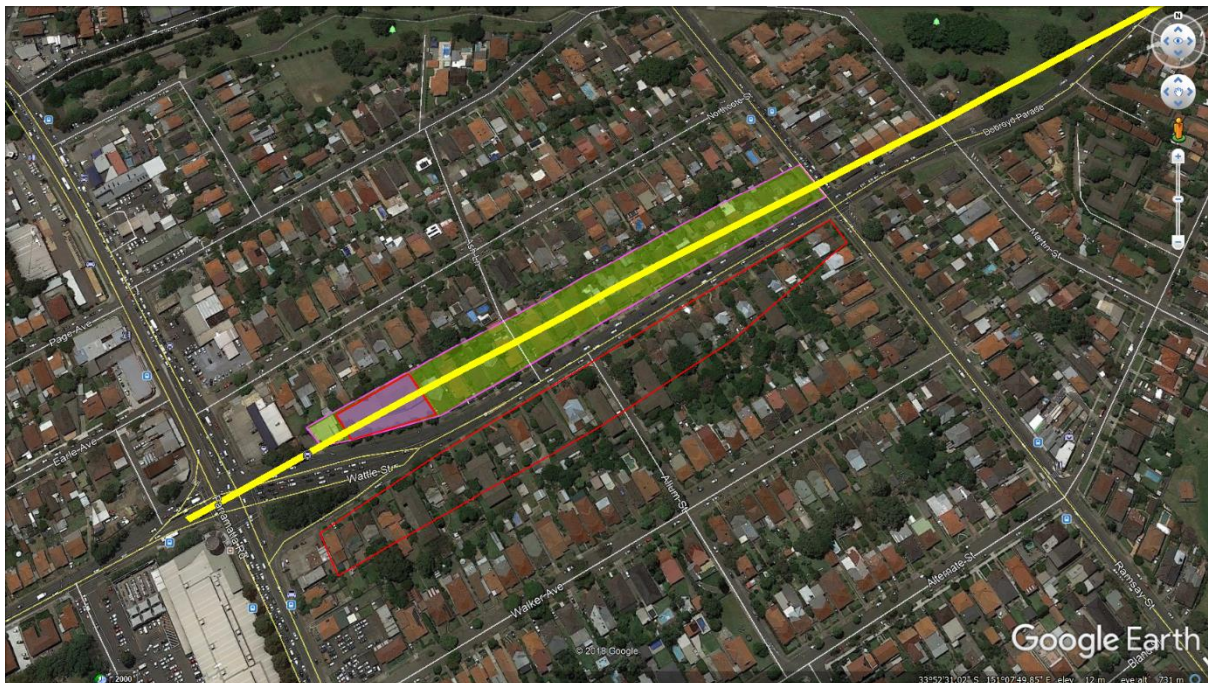
Date Received: 30 August 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impacts of WestConnex

Prepared by:

I would like to bring to the attention of the committee the decision process for home acquisition in Haberfield, in particular the decision to acquire the properties on the south eastern side of Dobroyd Parade (Haberfield side) rather than the north western side.



As you can see the natural path (Yellow line) of the road would see the properties on the north west side of the road being acquired. However, the properties that were actually acquired were on the Haberfield side of Dobroyd Parade - area shown in the red box.

The Haberfield properties acquired where –

- Part of the Haberfield Heritage Conservation area.
- Where all examples of high-quality Federation architecture
- Where well maintained
- Would most likely have had a higher cost of acquisition than the other side
- Are much better protected from the road noise due to their greater setback and gardens.
- Had many elderly residences who had lived much of their lives and who struggled with forced relocation

The North Wester side (not acquired) on the other hand -

- Has a large section of the land is the Jehovah Witness Church.
- Given that the church formed ~20% of the land, fewer residences would most likely have been affected
- These properties are generally set very close to the street and have always been very heavily noise affected and will most likely suffer even more with the new road.
- These properties are much lower grade and have little heritage value and would therefore have been cheaper to acquire.
- Many are rental properties.

I believe that a political decision was made to acquire the Haberfield properties rather than risk electoral backlash from the Jehovah Witness Church.

As we live close to the church, we are often door knocked by church members and when I spoke to one member he made it clear their political connections had been bought to bear.

If this is indeed the case, then the government had destroyed a large section of the heritage conservation area and caused huge emotional stress to a large number of long term elderly people for political gain. New buildings are now being built on parts of the acquired land. The government could have easily allocated part of this land to build a new church.

Regards