

**Submission  
No 555**

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT**

**Organisation:** CFMEU  
**Date Received:** 8 October 2018

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Dear Sirs

We write in relation to the upcoming hearings into the Impact of the Westconnex Project.

The Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, NSW Divisional Branch has an interest in the inquiry due to a number of our members being employed on the project.

Since the project commenced, union officials have received a constant stream of complaints about the safety on the project, and attempts to lawfully exercise their right of entry to investigate such complaints have been thwarted. We are concerned to ensure the ongoing safety of our members on the project.

The ongoing safety complaints raise serious concerns about the amount of money the principal contractors put into the safety of the workers and the surrounding community. The CFMMEU along with community groups have made representations to the principal contractors and SafeWork NSW about the amount of silica dust being produced on the project, the effect this dust has on workers and the surrounding community, and the lack of attention given to minimizing the risk. We believe that the project has allocated insufficient funds to appropriately manage the safety of the workers and the surrounding community.

We attach a collection of communications between the CFMMEU and SafeWork NSW about safety on the project including concerns about the monitoring of dust levels.

We believe that this information sits within the terms of reference as it relates to :

1. The cost of the project
2. The extent to which the project is meeting its goals

We believe it is highly relevant to evaluating the management of the project and the effect the project is having on the workers, the community and Sydney itself.

Whilst we understand that the closing date for submissions has passed, the CFMMEU is in a unique position to provide the committee this information and we ask the Committee to take this into account when entering the hearings this week, and when drafting the report.

We thank the Committee for its time in this matter

Yours faithfully

**Sherri Hayward**  
Legal/Industrial Officer

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**CFMMEU**

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