

Project Number SSI 14_6788.
Submission on EIS for WestConnex.

The Secretary, NSW Dept. of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Wednesday 27th January 2016

I strongly object to this project, and the entire WestConnex of which this is a part. I ask that this proposal is rejected on the basis of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As a resident of St Peters, I am greatly concerned about, and I object to:

- The destruction of large parts of Sydney Park, Camdenville Park, thousands of trees and other green spaces, including critically endangered forest. One of the proposed “construction sites” to be carved out of a large area of Sydney Park (outside of the road reservation area) puts it right next to the wetlands – polluting water quality, bird breeding areas and destroying local residents’ enjoyment of the park.
- Exposing the communities of St Peters and surrounding suburbs to increased pollution from WestConnex. Residents will be exposed to dangerous levels of pollutants and fine particulates. There is no safe level of fine particulate matter, yet this project will increase these pollutants around the St Peters interchange.
- The noise, dust, traffic and pollution our children of the schools (such as St Peters Public School and Camdenville Public School) and childcare centres along the route would be exposed to if this project is built.
- The failure to seriously consider the long-term impact of WestConnex on increased carbon emissions.
- The threat posed by the new M5 to biodiversity and endangered species, including the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog.
- The huge impact the project’s construction will have on local residents, businesses and schools. In my suburb of St Peters alone, people face years of having their streets turned into car parks for construction workers; 24/7 construction noise, vibration, and heavy truck movements; exposure to asbestos, construction dust, toxic materials, and more.
- No consultation with local businesses which would be destroyed by the traffic and/or the construction impacts of WestConnex.
- The compulsory acquisition of so many homes and businesses, and the impact on people in the affected communities.
- WestConnex’s failure to assess and handle asbestos correctly – I have watched large amounts removed in trucks ahead of this EIS from the Alexandria Landfill site and transported past houses in tiny local streets on its way through inner Sydney out to the western suburbs.
- The St Peters interchange and the huge amounts of extra traffic it will funnel into local streets of St Peters, Alexandria, Erskineville, Newtown, Tempe and Marrickville. The increases in traffic in these areas that will result from induced demand and drivers doing “rat runs” through local streets to avoid paying tolls on the current M5 and new M5.

- There are no alternatives to WestConnex being considered that would be a more efficient, safer and more socially responsible investment of \$16.8 billion – ie. public transport, effective road management, better transport connections, employment opportunities in Sydney’s west.
- This project will make residents of western and south-west Sydney pay huge tolls and depend on cars more. It fails to provide long-term traffic solutions and employment opportunities in these areas.

There are socially and environmentally responsible, and more economical, alternatives to WestConnex that need to and should be developed. For the sake of Sydney’s social, economic, health and environmental future WestConnex should not go ahead, and other intelligent infrastructure and development options need to be conceptualised and created.

I expect you to publish this submission and send me a written response to my objections.

T. Huxley

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Signed

Date