

Submission REJECTION of the recently proposed flyover at White Bay

Reference: Application SSI 7485

The Rozelle Interchange was planned, and the EIS was specifically prepared with the design by Westconnex, that it would be constructed underground, and as a spaghetti junction. As a long term taxpayer//ratepayer/citizen in Balmain, I reiterate that I am strongly opposed to ANY further funding or approvals or development of Westconnex, any further encroachment into the Inner West area. I fully reject any proposed flyover at White Bay or the interchange area, and indeed any further Westconnex work in this locale.

This proposed flyover at White Bay and interchange area effectively nullifies all EIS pertaining to the existing planning and approvals that are impacted by this change. The impact of a flyover will be horrendous and unacceptable, in terms of noise and air quality pollution. Furthermore, it denies us the space that was bargained for by Baird – that the Inner West would gain a large open green space in lieu of the massive disadvantages Westconnex would bring to bear in this neighbourhood and indeed to inner Sydney region. Actually, this plan – whether the flyover or the spaghetti tunnels are built - is so disrespectful to our communities, and will be a damaging result we are forced to bear, with only disadvantage to us.

I add that Westconnex contextualises its purpose as if it was serving our communities. However, many say they are and refuse to use the tolls. Many in Sydney do despair about the loss of public space and amenity, the taxpayer and ratepayer burden it forces us to bear, and the loss of potential it forces, that competes with current and future infrastructure and functioning for what we actually do need – more light and heavy rail, and cycleways. When peak hour traffic is the issue that this government needs to solve, the tollway system is a poor solution, and goes against all practices in contemporary first world countries.... simply stupid, and irreprehensible.

The first iteration of Westconnex was for a ring road to take trucks out of neighbourhood roads and to link directly to Botany and the airport – it has been a massive failure! Westconnex costing is appalling and indefinite due to this poorly piecemeal, viral approach to design of our wonderful city. Yet Westconnex in the Parliamentary Inquiry sought to relinquish ties to the Sydney Gateway Project, and to deny that the cost of this section was pertinent to the total estimated cost of Westconnex.

We will no longer tolerate such poor and arbitrary civic planning and business planning. I consider that the Westconnex business plan is now redundant and defunct. Therefore, I call for a new business plan to be required, and if Westconnex is to continue in ANY form – flyover or subterranean - that a new business plan be submitted, and subject to all levels of scrutiny, again.

I add that I have already been negatively affected by the demolition of houses along Victoria Rd, near Iron Cove Bridge – an area that should not have even been activated

by Westconnex as the Western Harbour Tunnel Link had not been approved nor funded. Another waste of money and polluting our small neighbourhood unnecessarily.

The Westconnex plan for Rozelle Interchange and the White Bay area was poor and badly done without proper consultation of locals like me, nor with due consideration of the massive air quality and noise pollution that construction and design of stacks would have on the livability of our suburbs. Both our potential and our existing rights and access have been taken away by this project that continues to deny us any or massively disrupt - both in construction and in operation of any Westconnex toll roads - our cycle/pedestrian/road traffic/ light and heavy rail functionality.

I demand that no 'no-compete' clauses be included in any of the Westconnex contracts, to keep open this city's future infrastructure development that we actually do need - light rail and heavy rail, and dedicated cycleways. The Westconnex has damaged the good design and governance of this first world class, contemporary city for too long. We will not allow it to damage our sustainable future infrastructure too.

Westconnex is now our greatest Climate Change risk for Sydney and beyond - this will no longer be tolerated by citizens who strive now for green spaces, sustainability, and carbon reduction. We demand the direct green spaces links be ensured in the planning and enjoyment of our neighbourhood and livability of our city.

The congestion already due to Westconnex trucks and access around the Crescent/City West Link is shocking, exacerbated now with many more hours of congestion to the whole region of roads that network the interchange. This will only get worse and for years, if the main cause of 42 plus years of high (and incrementally higher) tolls is allowed - the Rozelle Interchange and White Bay.

This is seriously laughable, given that - as Inner West Council Mayor Darcy Byrne stated during the Westconnex Inquiry last year- that adding insult to injury, Westconnex will also drive our council to place at least a \$30 mil debt on ratepayers. While it seems that RMS has planned this for months, it was never brought to our public attention nor consultation, but simply sought to be pushed through now!

Not only to suffer serious and chronic pollution and traffic disadvantages, but the SSI 7485 removes the direct cycle and pedestrian link from the proposed park to the Annandale foreshore. The flyover proposed is a visual eyesore, but in addition to the disadvantages of Westconnex design on our neighbourhood, only further physically causes a separation and intensifies difficulty of cross access between the small adjacent neighbourhoods of the Rozelle and Annandale communities.

Finally, I demand that our Inner West Council receive funding by Westconnex for a suitably qualified Complaints Department professional to handle local concerns. The council community officer position is also to be reinstated and WCX funded, and with greater powers of representation, asap.

Sincerely,

  
Loretta Picone

 Balmain East 2041 NSW