Application Number SSI 7485 WestConnex M4-M5 Link – Modification 2 The Crescent overpass

Roz Cheney Lilyfield

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to application number SSI 7485, which is modification 2 of The Crescent Overpass, part of the WestConnex project.

Although I live in this area, I've only just now been shown by a friend, your August newsletter announcing profound changes to the original concept design. I would have liked to have gone to one of your information sessions at the end of August. I'm not sure why the meetings were not more widely publicised.

Frankly, I'm staggered at the scale of the changes to that original concept design and the consequent destruction of living conditions in the Annandale area. This modification will impose greatly on the local landscape in the inner west. We were originally assured all the tunnels would be underground. There was to be an unobtrusive underground tunnel allowing traffic from The Crescent to cross the City West Link without stopping at traffic lights. There was to be easy access for residents like myself who regularly use the Glebe foreshore to get to that foreshore.

I am already concerned about the visual pollution of the three enormous ventilation stacks together with their air pollution because they are not filtered. To add to this, we're to have more visual pollution with a massive imposing overpass instead of an underground tunnel allowing traffic from the Crescent to cross the City West Link; as well as a clunky high concrete footbridge between the Rozelle Goods Yard and the Glebe foreshore; and relocation of the green link which will no longer provide easy access from Lilyfield with the foreshore at Glebe. And Annandale, Rozelle, Lilyfield etc. will have undeniably increased traffic, increased noise and more dirty air, especially with the removal of those beautiful trees in Buruwan Park.

The elevated monorail was an inappropriate solution to Sydney's transports needs in the Seventies to the point that it was finally dismantled a few years' ago. Let's not repeat that with conspicuous overpasses and elevated footbridges by the harbour in a residential area. There are other solutions to this cumbersome plan. We're told we're the clever country. Well let's be clever about this and find a better solution. As I write this I feel as if I'm in an episode of the television satire, UTOPIA.

Please, please, think again.