

Application Number SSI 7485**WestConnex M4-M5 Link – Modification 2 The Crescent overpass****Michele Hacking****Rozelle**

This “modification” should be rejected on many grounds. They include:

- negative impacts on pedestrian connectivity
- visual impact
- disrespect for heritage

Pedestrians need to be safe and given access to corridors that promote welcoming and diverse opportunities to explore their environment. With ever increasing residential density, this need is exacerbated. A two lane roadway and multiple sets of lights which divide an area act as an impediment to healthy outdoor activity.

Any plan for major change in a community should consider the fabric and structures that are currently in place. An investigation into pedestrian links would have informed designers that Johnston St, crossing at The Crescent, is a major route to the foreshore for families to access the park and open space. This development will unnecessarily complicate that link. There is already an overpass suggested to link Rozelle and the foreshore. We do not need or want two concrete structures (even with trees as a screen) hovering over our roads. It is unsightly and could be avoided by following the original proposal by leaving this section underground.

By sorting out this intersection below ground, existing pedestrian paths could be maintained, visual impact reduced and current streetscape for the heritage mural preserved. The mural has been an integral part of this community for 40 years. Residents have already lost our community park (Buruwan) to facilitate changes. Volunteers worked hard to improve the area and provide a wildlife refuge. This project has destroyed that. Some respect and understanding for the adjoining community should be shown now – before all confidence in this process is lost. Protecting and leaving the mural as it was designed to be seen could be a crucial step in showing that there is respect and empathy for residents who are coping with years of dust and disruption while this project is underway.