

I am a local resident of Haberfield.

I have a number of concerns regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Exhibition for the Westconnex M4 East Tunnel Project.

### **1. NO IMPROVEMENT UNLESS STAGE 3 BUILT - SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL STAGE 3 CONFIRMED AND APPROVED**

There is absolute minimal, if any improvement to travel times to persons using the M4East tunnel if Stage 3 does not go ahead. Furthermore, there is significant increase in congestion from Haberfield to the city as a result of the M4 East project, thus negating any minimal benefit obtained from persons using the tunnel from the west as there will be an increase in traffic all culminating at what is an already busy and clogged route on either Parramatta Rd or the City West link.

There should not be any start on this project unless Stage 3, has been confirmed, funded and approved. Otherwise this is a complete waste of \$15.4 billion of taxpayers money resulting in a deterioration of the quality of life of local Haberfield residents and travel times for all.

### **2. PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - Across Wattle St, from Waratah St Haberfield**

Many of the children and residents use the sporting fields and parks at Timbrell Park several times a week. The pedestrian access to these park lands/sporting fields and the Bay Run is via a crossing at Waratah St. it is **ESSENTIAL** that safe pedestrian passage be provided to the Haberfield community to the sports grounds that all of our children and residents use on a daily basis.

We understand that on completion, the tunnel will exit city bound will come to surface prior to Waratah St, meaning that residents will need to cross what is effectively 10 lanes of traffic.

A safe passage, preferably via an overhead bridge (with ramp, such as to cater to bikes/prams), must be provided to allow access to what is essentially access to an active lifestyle. This is essential to the long term active health of the community.

Temporary and safe access must also be maintained throughout construction or people will effectively lose years of active lifestyle during the long construction period.

Lack of adequate pedestrian access would essentially lead to the Haberfield community being isolated from activities.

### **3. NOISE AND DUST**

My children attend Haberfield Public School. My children suffer from asthma. Their quality of play and learning will be severely impacted by the noise and dust that will be generated during construction.

The meeting at HPS seemed to suggest that it is accepted that there will be noise issues, but it seems that "we will fix it if there is a problem". Therefore it is clear that the problem needs to be shown to be actually affecting our children and for them to actually suffer before noise abatement issues are put into place. This is not acceptable that their schooling should suffer during their crucial formative years that sets a foundation for their entire future.

Given the level of noise that is conceded in the EIS, pre-emptive measures **MUST** be put in place prior to the commencement of any construction within 500 metres of the school. This must be in the form of double glazing and air conditioning. This will allow respite from the noise and the dust.

#### **4. PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - Across Parramatta Rd**

The current overpass across Parramatta Rd at Bland St is effectively the only safe passage across Parramatta Rd to Ashfield. This ought not be simply maintained, it often has issues due to lift breaking down and does not allow for adequate cycle access. Therefore it should be significantly improved if it is now to service persons crossing 10 lanes of traffic.

#### **5. IMPACT ON THE ONLY HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA**

Haberfield is the only entire suburb listed as a Heritage Conservation Area. It plays an important role in the history of Sydney. This has not been properly considered given that it has been proposed to simply extinguish many heritage houses and result in the suburb being surrounded by 2, 10 lane motorways. This will effectively limit access to Ashfield and to Five Dock for Haberfield residents.

#### **6. AIR QUALITY**

At an information night at our local school attended by WestConnex representatives, we were told the proposed location for the eastern ventilation stack is "optimum". It feels far from optimum to our community. I have children that suffer from Asthma and am seriously concerned that their health will be impacted by the increase in vehicle emissions.

When these concerns were raised re the lack of the filtration and regarding the height of the stack, we were told that if the air quality was diminished beyond the projections, then this would have to be rectified. However, this effectively means that remediation would need to take place **AFTER** our children/residents are already feeling the negative impacts of the air quality. Further, it was not identified what could be done retrospectively to fix this problem.

Surely, at least the height of the stack ought to be significantly higher to prevent an extremely densely populated community becoming sick.

#### **7. NO BUISNESS CASE HAS BEEN RELEASED**

I do not believe that planning approval should be granted prior to a release of the business case. It is not possible to provide a "consultation" with the community without the provision of crucial material.

#### **ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

**1. Ensure adequate safe passage from Haberfield to Timbrell Park/Five Dock at Wattle St, such that it is accessible by foot, prams, bikes and scooters. Similarly, improve the passage over Parramatta Rd at Bland St.**

**2. Take all reasonable measures to maintain/improve air quality prior to building (ie make the stack higher) . Do not wait til people are irreversibly sick to take "remediation action".**

**3. It is known that noise will impact Haberfield Public School. Do not wait until the childrens learning is impacted and delayed (which can place them permanently behind their peers) before introducing noise abatement strategies, these should be put in place prior to any construction that could affect the school.**

**4. There is no benefit unless Stage 3 is confirmed and approved. No construction should start until the project in its entirety is approved and funded.**

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission. I look forward to seeing all of my concerns addressed in your response.

Rebecca Ross