

**Submission about Westconnex EIS**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about this project. Please note that I definitely do not want my name and address published on the internet or anywhere else.

I live on the southern side of Walker Avenue (assuming that it runs generally east west between Parramatta Road and Ramsay Street) with my partner. We live close to opposite where we understand the entry point will be to the work site on our street for a number of years, and to the east of where the permanent Westconnex buildings will be. We wish to express a number of medium and long-term concerns about the environmental impact of Westconnex.

Speaking generally, we are not bitterly opposed to the project (although we do not welcome it). We submit that it is essential, however, that adverse environmental impacts are minimised, both in the medium term during the construction period, and thereafter in the long term. I will provide our submissions about each of those in turn.

In the medium term, we submit that the environmental impact of the construction phase must be minimised by all reasonably practical steps. In fact, I work from home during the day, and use a home office that is right at the front of our house. You will appreciate that I am very concerned about noise (whether that be from trucks, other traffic, drilling, blasting, workers, or anything else) that could make it effectively impossible from me to work and maintain my income. Our bedroom is at the front of our home as well. If noise is not able to be limited to a reasonably practical degree, my partner and I will be seeking that Westconnex provide such measures as double glazing to some or all of our home, or any other remedial measure that is necessary.

We have the identical concern about dust and dirt during construction.

Although we understand that, at this stage, there is to be no tunnelling under our home, nevertheless there should be a full check of the state of our home before the construction phase commences, so that, if any damage is caused in some way, that can be promptly measured and repaired.

Turning to the long term, it seems that, after construction is concluded, there will be an open space the width of perhaps half a dozen suburban blocks across from our home. Whilst we appreciate that the current plan is that it will be a matter for Ashfield Council to deal with that open space as it sees fit, nevertheless we submit that there should be no question of that land being used for (for example) apartments. We submit that the best outcome is that a small park, which is designed to fit in with the heritage nature of Haberfield in general and Walker Avenue in particular, be built in that empty space.

We also submit that, to the extent that any park or other open space will back onto the expanded Wattle Street, it is essential that there be full noise minimising measures installed on the northern side of the park, along with greenery that screens any unattractive outlook.

We submit that the permanent Westconnex buildings that will replace housing at the western end of Walker Avenue on the northern side of the road (that is, approaching the corner of Parramatta

Road) must be fully and attractively screened with greenery from a very early stage. If that does not occur, the amenity of our street and home will be destroyed.

The stack that will be at the corner of Wattle Street and Parramatta Road should be filtered. It also should be as short as possible, so that it does not tower over surrounding residences and ruin the outlook.

Finally, we understand that Allum Street will become a permanent dead end at its intersection with Wattle Street. Consideration should also be given to closing Walker Avenue permanently to through traffic, at least partially, especially if there is a chance that it will become a "rat run".

In short, in the medium and long term, we believe that it is possible that the adverse effects of the project upon Walker Avenue can be minimised. But we submit that it is essential that a number of important separate steps be taken to ensure that that occurs.

-----