

The Secretary  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

29 October 2015

Dear Sir

**Project Number SSI 6307**  
**Submission on Environmental Impact Statement : WestConnex M4 East**

The Glebe Society is a long established community group representing the interests of nearly 400 members in Glebe and Forest Lodge. We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on the Environmental Impact Statement.

We are concerned about the impact of the project on inner city transport, and specifically that the completion of the M4 East will direct more traffic onto the City West Link with the inevitable diversion of traffic into Glebe and Forest Lodge.

We note the alternatives to the project that were considered, and wish in particular to point out that a more effective strategy would be to invest in lower cost alternatives, in particular public transport, rail freight improvements and demand management. To adopt the most costly alternative is, we think, a wasteful approach when more cautious options are available.

We have grave doubts about the underlying assumptions that justify the project; in particular that congestion will continue to worsen as the population increases. There are a number of reasons why this assumption may be false: including, the changing pattern in the use of motor vehicles, the increased preference for high density living close to places of work, the sharing economy, particularly the growth of services such as Uber and GoGet, and the potential impact of electric and driverless cars.

We are particularly concerned that economic or political constraints may mean the total WestConnex project is not completed, leaving inner city suburbs with the impact of traffic that has been redirected onto their streets.

Yours sincerely

Ted McKeown  
President