

The Secretary
DP&E Project No. SSI 6307
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

October 31, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

WESTCONNEX PROJECT: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for M4 East Tunnel Project

As a local resident of Haberfield, I am totally opposed to the construction of the M4 East Tunnel and wish to make the following response in relation to this project.

1. Tollways are not a solution:

- a. Spending several billion dollars to develop a tollway which **will only drop traffic onto already congested roads** is not a viable solution. It is just moving the problem around. Prediction modelling suggests that traffic volumes by 2031 when the full scheme is in place will increase – not reduce – traffic on Parramatta Road (62,490 as opposed to 52,030) and Victoria Road (75,770 as opposed to 68,250) as a result of WestConnex being built.
- b. Numerous urban traffic projects such as Sydney's Cross City Tunnel and Brisbane's RiverCity Tunnel have been highly unsuccessful resulting in financial losses for their owners.
- c. We already know that the traffic predictions are potentially flawed as they were prepared by AECOM - a company which has now announced that it will no longer provide traffic and revenue forecasting for toll road owners or operators in Australia due to their inability to provide accurate modelling.
- d. Commuters from the Western Suburbs have been duped into believing this will help to ease traffic flow – when in fact a substantial toll will be charged for the use of the roadway. This will undoubtedly diminish the number of people able to afford using the tollway. In turn this will increase the number of cars taking alternative "rat run" routes putting increased pressure on surface streets in suburbs such as Haberfield, Leichhardt and Annandale.
Leichhardt Council has done a projection study of these traffic flows with a number of intersections already rating poorly at "D" and "E" downgrading further to an "F" – in effect providing "parking lot" conditions for residents.

As such this is no solution - **we need an independent assessment of the project which also looks at public and active transport solutions as viable alternatives.**

2. I object to the lack of transparency in the planning of this project:

1. I strongly object to the steam rolling measures taken by government in the planning for this project as they have chosen to ignore our community concerns and have been unresponsive to our requests.
2. I object to a contractor being appointed and homes and businesses compulsorily acquired prior to the release of the EIS or the business case and ask for an immediate

stop to the acquisitions until we see further evidence that this project will deliver benefits to our community.

3. The EIS shows that this unjustified project will irreversibly destroy the heritage values of Haberfield, Australia's oldest garden suburb and the most intact example of a heritage Federation suburb in Australia:

I want the following addressed from the EIS which directly impacts the living standards on our street (Northcote Street):

- a. I object to the proposed location of the construction depot currently planned for the end of our street (Northcote Street) which will not only be an eyesore in a heritage neighbourhood but most importantly:
 - Will impact our ability to access Parramatta Road as we are currently able to;
 - Does not address any modifications at the opposite end of the street to assist with traffic flow – for example a “keep clear” zone which allows us greater ease of exit and entry
 - Will undoubtedly see construction workers parking on Northcote Street unless this is designated residential parking only;
 - Contribute noise as a result of above ground construction and also tunnelling work which will take place 24/7;
 - Add huge numbers of trucks – which create noise and traffic congestion – for the next three years of the construction period. We understand that it is currently planned for 300 heavy vehicles and 30 light construction vehicles per day to move through the construction zone at the end of Northcote Street
 - Does not address the repatriation of the land following the end of construction
- b. I object to the current proposed placement of the ventilation stack on the intersection of Wattle Street and Parramatta Roads. We request further investigation into alternative locations and solutions:
 - a. The stacks should be relocated away from nearby school and childcare centres, medical centres and retirement villages and local residences.
 - b. I also object to the ventilation stack being unfiltered and request that this be looked into immediately. We have been advised that filtration will require an investment of \$100M – if the WestConnex project goes ahead this will be a very small percentage of the \$15B total investment.

Regards

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