

1 November 2015

Director, Major Projects Assessments  
Department of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: WESTCONNEX M4 EIS (SSI 6307)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Westconnex project.

While in general I support nation-building projects and infrastructure development, I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. The cost of the project is very high for the apparently limited traffic benefits (as described in the EIS), compared to alternate more extensive public transport options presented by various organisations such as Ecotransit. The proponent has not persuaded the community of the business case for the road. The assessment of project alternatives (other than alternate road routes) in the EIS is limited.
2. The inner suburbs of Sydney are successful models of high-density city living, and the project has a relatively severe impact on these areas including:
  - a. fragmentation of suburbs;
  - b. loss of green space (in a high population density area);
  - c. loss of heritage especially in Haberfield;
  - d. unresolved fears relating to long-term air quality health impacts.
3. There has been a very significant emotional impact on the communities who are either potentially or actually subject to resumption of homes. It is hard to understand the impact on families and neighbourhoods unless placed in a similar situation, and this situation has been particularly hard on the elderly, who find it even more difficult to move from familiar neighbourhoods.
4. It is not clear whether the Government's plans for significantly increased development along the Parramatta Road corridor have been taken into account. These plans have had limited community consultation and have the potential to further disrupt successful and stable suburbs.
5. The cumulative impacts of later stages of the Westconnex project have not been taken into account, noting that the project will continue to extend across the inner city area.

I am a regular traveller between the west and the city but would have liked to see more creative options considered to manage traffic flow throughout greater Sydney.

Resident, Ashfield, Sydney  
[Name withheld at submitter's request]