

1 November 2015

Submission: Westconnex EIS public consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Westconnex motorway project. I am a long term owner resident of a property on the eastern/southern end of Walker Avenue Haberfield. It is directly across the road from the proposed construction Wattle Street/Parramatta Road site. I have appreciated in recent weeks the contact the selected construction company has made with me.

I seek genuine opportunity for further and ongoing active involvement in planning and design decisions that will impact directly on my street and neighborhood during construction and after.

I was drawn to the suburb because of its unique community feel, history and significant urban design principles that have guided its development over a very long time. I consider myself very fortunate to live in Haberfield and have every intent to continue doing so. I contend that any future development that will impact on Haberfield must adhere to and pay respect to the suburb's history, development and its unique and important place in Australia's urban development.

While I don't advocate against the Westconnex project I believe its scale, impact and potential to detrimentally change my quality of life and that of the place I live in will be potentially significant in the immediate, medium and long term.

In relation to the breadth of impacts I specifically bring to your attention the following.

- Air quality and the venting stacks
- Noise from traffic and congestion
- Streetscape and community environment
- Traffic management

AIR QUALITY AND VENTING STACKS

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the venting stacks for the eastbound lanes of the motorway as being unvented. There is much international debate and unknown science about the immediate community health and wellbeing impacts of this limited design feature – I therefore argue strongly for full filtration of the venting system. I live less than 100 meters from this proposed structures which are close to a large primary school and a number of substantial pre-school facilities. Our local neighborhood is within the plume

radius of the stack facility. This is a critical ongoing issue for me and my immediate community.

The two stack buildings are scoped to be around 8 stories in height – 5 stories higher than any existing structure in our local community. Their construction details are yet to be finalized and released and their design and environmental appearance will be a key focus for me as the project progresses. My house will front the structures directly.

I further note from the EIS the construction site fronting Walker Avenue and across the road from my house will post construction be made available as a development site. Without any information on what this may deliver I strongly oppose this and seek that Ashfield Council be given responsibility for determining the future use of this site following local community engagement and within the context of the heritage significance of Walker Avenue and the suburb of Haberfield.

I seek to have further genuine local community consultation on design, development and associated environmental impacts prior to any planning being finalized and progressed.

NOISE FROM TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION

The intersection of Parramatta Road and Wattle Street is one of the busiest in the inner west. Its flow of traffic, screeching air brakes from heavy vehicles, regular sirens and supercharged motor bikes punctuate the quietness of Walker Avenue throughout the day and into much of the night, all to begin again in the early predawn hours of each new day. The cycle of noise is also marked by the seasons with August and September being of particular note when the strong prevailing south westerly winds bring into our houses the roar and energy the western transport corridor generates.

Until now I attribute much of the noise abatement in our immediate community coming from the substantial residential and commercial structures in and around Parramatta Road and on the fringes of Haberfield. Substantial 3 storied 1970s unit buildings on Wattle Street mixed with very solid brick federation structures provide layered noise and environmental buffering within our immediate environment. The demolition of these structures will directly expose many of us to potential and significant increases in ongoing noise pollution during and post construction. This will be further exacerbated by the construction itself, especially in Walker Avenue and in particular my section of the street closest to Parramatta Road.

In order to maintain our existing environmental amenity there is a need for substantial sound insulation walling not only around the construction site but longer term around the motorway's service facility, bounding Parramatta Road and Wattle Street. This will need to extend to the City West Link and Parramatta Road tunnel portals and will be specifically important for residents that will border the motorway and its immediate construction sites.

The best option to further mitigate this issue however would be the proposal from Ashfield Council to move the city west link tunnel portal to Lilyfield close to the approaches to the Anzac Bridge where the impact on existing residential precincts would be greatly reduced. If this change were adopted the need remains to clarify and strongly address the noise and walling issues around the Parramatta Road and Wattle Street intersection. At this time, the detailed design and impact of such remain unknown to the local community.

As design and construction of the motorway is progressed I seek further local community consultation and input into noise mitigation and walling solutions for the areas adjacent to Walker Avenue.

STREETSCAPE AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

Haberfield has been regarded as the garden suburb for many decades. Its unique Federation and architectural heritage and community focus further enhances its significant place in Sydney's inner west. Any destruction or diminution of this is very strongly opposed. The potential detrimental environment impact of the motorway on Haberfield is an increasing cause for significant community concern and unrest.

There needs to be very active and effective community engagement by the Motorway Authority with the local community over how the environmental landscape will be protected during construction and how it will be returned post construction. Landscape design, including the use and selection of trees and other vegetation needs to be in keeping not only with our local European cultural heritage and identity but also that of our local Aboriginal community. We don't want a few eucalypt sapling replacing a significant local flora and fauna eco-system that has grown and matured until this time. The local eco-system has been well documented in the submission from Ashfield Council.

I seek direct and further community engagement and input into the development and finalization of landscaping and environmental protection planning where it will impact on ongoing residencies along Walker Avenue and its immediate streets.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Walker Avenue is valued as a quiet, safe and accessible residential precinct. The arrival of the motorway and its infrastructure threatens this significantly. The EIS proposes making Walker Avenue north of Allum Street a cul de sac. I live on the southern side of Allum street and oppose this proposal. Like most residents in Walker Avenue I enter and leave the street from Ramsay Road. I support strongly making Walker Avenue a cul de sac but at the southern end onto Parramatta Road rather than in the middle of the street.

It is not clear why the southern end of Walker Avenue should remain open. This raises questions about the potential ongoing need for heavy and emergency

vehicles post construction to access the motorway service facility from Walker Avenue.

I seek ongoing opportunity for the residents of Walker Avenue to meet with and discuss with the construction authority the reasons underpinning the planning for the proposed traffic changes to Walker Avenue.

I also seek further local community discussion and participation into options for further addressing noise mitigation and insulation in and around the construction site on Walker Avenue and post construction along Parramatta Road.

I trust my submission will be considered seriously and in the context of seeking to find ways forward to progress development while addressing the immediate and ongoing issues emerging from a concerned and cohesive local community. I will await contact from the construction authority regarding the personal and community issues I have raised.

I request that acknowledgment of my submission and further request that its content not be made public.

Yours sincerely
Brian Smyth King