

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

**WESTCONNEX PROJECT: Environmental Impact Statement for M4East Tunnel Project (EIS)**

I make the following submission in relation to the above EIS. I strongly object to both the M4 East Extension and the entire WestConnex project of which this is part, and requests a reply to the following concerns:

1. I object to the lodging of the EIS before a full business case has made public, and to billions of dollars of public money being signed away on contracts before any planning approval is given. This is a travesty of democratic and transparent planning.
2. I object to the traffic impacts that WestConnex, including the M4 East tunnel, will impose on Sydney's population. The Government's own figures for the first M4 widening stage of WestConnex show that re-imposing a toll on the current M4 will push thousands of cars and trucks onto alternative routes – Parramatta Road, the M2 and Victoria Road. Research shows that toll roads only provide temporary relief from traffic congestion. The evidence in the EIS is that the M4 tunnel and the proposed M5 tunnel would already be full by 2031 and many local streets and intersections across the entire project would continue to be severely congested or even worse if the project is completed.
3. I object to hundreds of people being forced from their homes and businesses for the over 290 properties that will be compulsorily acquired for the M4 East. Many affected property owners report that the prices offered by the Government are grossly undervalued and they would not be able to afford to buy in the same area.
4. I object to \$15.4 billion being spent on this toll road instead of significant public and active transport improvements. WestConnex is already making living conditions worse for people in suburbs such as Granville and Auburn, and offers nothing to residents beyond Parramatta who have been treated like second-class citizens when it comes to public transport for far too long.
5. I object to the fact that business owners were not consulted for the economic impact study.
6. I object to the impact that years of 24-hour construction work will have on communities. Across the route there will be thousands of diesel truck movements a day. The EIS states that noise and Vibration impacts will "cause stress and anxiety, affect the enjoyment of outdoor spaces and disturb normal indoor activities [and] sleep patterns with consequent impacts on health and wellbeing." This is totally unacceptable to me.
7. I object to the toxic pollution that will come with the M4East tunnel including unfiltered stacks. Pollution in local areas near portals will be worse. Traffic pollution has been linked to higher rates of respiratory and heart disease and lung cancer, and impaired lung development in children. This is completely unacceptable given the high numbers of residents, businesses, schools, child and aged care facilities in the area.

### Comments in Conclusion:

This motorway proposal demonstrates to me irresponsible governance on the part NSW government, who are clearly not listening to the taxpayers of this state. It's time to stop looking after political and corporate vested interests and build massive public transport with our tax dollars – the key to unlocking traffic congestion in this city. The light rail service to Dulwich Hill has proven to be convenient and popular mode of transport with commuters, as more and more people move toward public transport. However, despite the evidence the government are building light rail on a very small scale, compared to its appetite for building motorways. Prioritizing the extension of services in light rail , heavy rail, bus, rail freight, and cycle and walking tracks are realistic solutions in easing transport congestion NOW. Motorways are outdated, induce traffic, expensive to build, cause massive destruction to communities and drive up climate degrading emissions – after decades of being left behind by the former NSW State government, the current State and Federal governments are going to set us back even further with this hideous and deeply flawed proposal, using public monies.

Please, do the right thing by the people of this state by scrapping this ill-conceived and deeply flawed WestConnex M4East motorway proposal.

#### **POLITICAL DONATIONS DECLARATION**

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(Tick box)

☒ **I HAVE NOT** made any donations exceeding  
\$1000 in the requisite period

☐ **I HAVE MADE** donations exceeding \$1000 in  
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**DETAILS**

Yours sincerely

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