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2nd November 2015

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Re: WestConnex M4 East Environmental Impact Statement (SSI 6307)

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following submission regarding the WestConnex M4 East Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I write as a Councillor on the City of Sydney Council to make the following comments on the EIS for the WestConnex M4 East project.

I write with a number of concerns regarding the project and to express my strong opposition to the WestConnex project as a whole, noting that:

- The project, as designed, does not deliver a coherent strategy for the movement of freight away from Kingsford Smith Airport and Port Botany – something desperately needed for Sydney's growth;
- As a result of the WestConnex M4 East project, the volume of traffic flowing into the City of Sydney LGA via Parramatta Road and Anzac Bridge will increase, with no increased investment on alternative public transport pathways;
- The project will lead to greater levels of traffic in the inner-city by creating an induced demand for private motor vehicle transportation, leading to traffic congestion in inner-city streets and failing to adequately respond to the challenges of transport in Sydney;
- The project, by inducing greater levels of private motor vehicle traffic to use roads, will have negative health consequences on local communities by increasing the level of pollutants emitted by motor vehicle traffic in the area, as well as localised negative impacts caused by ventilation stacks along the route of the project;
- By inducing greater levels of private motor vehicle use, the project will likely cause the need for clearways on King Street – and turn this thriving cultural street into another version of Parramatta Road. Clearways will likely destroy local businesses, cost local jobs, and reduce public high street amenity;

- By encouraging private motor vehicle transport and adding to traffic congestion, the project will increase greenhouse gas emissions when compared to modes of public transport that are less-intensive greenhouse gas emitters; and
- The project as a whole will have unacceptable adverse impacts on existing green spaces along the route, including reducing the size of Sydney Park and as part of the New M5 and St Peters Interchange components of WestConnex.

The WestConnex project will have an enormous impact on the communities affected by the route with no clear evidence showing that the project will deliver upon its promise.

National and international evidence has shown that investment in new roads at the expense of new investment in public transport infrastructure has negative social, economic, and environmental impacts on communities and cities.

Sydney is in dire need of greater investment in public transport infrastructure, not new motorways.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WestConnex M4 East EIS.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Scott".

Councillor Linda Scott
Labor Councillor, City of Sydney Council