

To the Director,
Major Planning Assessments,
Department of Planning and Environment.

Submission: WestConnex M4 EIS (SSI 6307)

I write to express my strong objection to the WestConnex M4 East motorway proposal.

If built it will generate additional traffic, funnelling it into heavily congested middle-ring and inner city roads, requiring the demolition of hundreds of homes and businesses to make way for road widenings on the surface road network to distribute the traffic from the motorway.

This proposal encourages more car use and, as the Sydney community have seen so many times, it will quickly fill the increased road capacity. I believe it is not a long-term solution to Sydney's congestion problem.

This EIS does not properly account for the long-term impacts of air pollution generated by the increased traffic volumes the project is designed to facilitate.

This EIS considers benefits for all stages of the project but doesn't address the negative impacts along the whole route.

I am seriously concerned also that the State Government has already signed multi-billion dollar contracts for WestConnex before this EIS was even placed on public exhibition and as a result it seriously undermines community confidence that this is a genuine consultation process. The EIS process is supposed to allow for genuine public input and to result, potentially, in approval, non-approval, or approval with modifications of the project. The current process makes a mockery of that right.

Government funding for this proposal – as part of the whole WestConnex proposal – will claim an extraordinary proportion of the state transport budget for years to come. This being the case, I am dismayed that the EIS has failed to honestly and fully discuss its social, environmental, and economic impacts or to explain why it is preferable to other alternative public and active transport solutions.

I would like to specifically draw your attention to the EIS's failure to:

- Factor into the traffic modelling the very large increase in apartment construction and therefore population – that has been promoted by the WestConnex Delivery Authority and other agencies as a major rationalisation for the proposal.
- Honestly discuss public transport and freight rail alternatives
- Publish a robust business case to justify expenditure of billions of dollars worth of taxpayer's funds.
- Properly describe the long-term impacts of air pollution generated by the increased traffic volumes the project is designed to facilitate.
- Consider more sustainable public and active transport options that will produce a lower level of greenhouse gas emissions as well as consider government policies that would restrict parking supply in new multi-storey residential developments and providing incentives for residential building car hire/share arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

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