

## **Submission re. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for WestConnex M4 Widening from Parramatta to Homebush**

We are completely opposed to the Westconnex project and its associated urban redevelopment.

- We are aware that the State Government claims they are 2 separate projects but they are inextricably linked because the project is a Trojan horse for the State Government to compulsorily take our homes, businesses, parks, schools etc to be sold to developers to build high-rise and tollways throughout our suburbs. It has been admitted openly on Channel 7 news that the Government will make significant profits out of this land grab.
- We want to express our anger that only the minimum time has been allowed for consultation on the EIS, especially since the project involves the compulsory acquisition of homes/businesses, and pollution from increased volumes of traffic and fumes will have a detrimental effect on the health, safety, environment and quality of life of residents, plus loss of open space and amenities. Indeed, the short time allotted to the consultation raises the question as to whether or not the Government is interested in a genuine consultation process
- We were unaware of the EIS consultation until very recently, and many of our neighbours are totally unaware of the EIS let alone the limited timeline for submissions
- The Government has not fulfilled the intent of the law requiring full and proper consultation with the community.
- \$5.3b of public money is being committed to a project that has not completed its planning process. Furthermore, the Government has withheld from the public what their current plans are, ie where the tollway is actually going, what streets are affected and whose homes will be compulsory purchased, and where the ramps, stacks and high-rise development are going.
- This project will not resolve traffic congestion, as it will only cause further congestion down the road. The NSW State of the Environment Report 2012 shows the numbers of people using public transport have increased while those using private vehicles have dropped
- The NSW 2011/12 Household Travel Survey shows public transport is in greater demand than ever - in the past decade Sydney's population has increased by 12% but the demand for Sydney's trains increased by 23% and Sydney's Buses by 16%. Yet the NSW Government proposes a \$15 billion dollar tollway.
- An examination of the Government's own travel time figures shows that their claim that the project will reduce travel times is false, and, as stated by Mathew Hounsell, President of NoWestconnex - "In the official travel times released for the Westconnex, the government shows a drive through traffic

of 66 minutes for Parramatta to the Airport (excluding parking). However, using any train trip planner it shows a 40 minute ride, with a change at Central. Most of the governments travel times show Westconnex will be slower than public transport.”

- A tollway is not the answer to congestion, expanding upon existing public transport with links to light rail is a far more cost-effective and efficient solution to the current congestion. For genuine solutions to Sydney traffic problems see - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNdgHBf\\_gJ0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNdgHBf_gJ0)  
Also - [http://ecotransit-votes.info/?page\\_id=56](http://ecotransit-votes.info/?page_id=56)
- Is the Government more interested in the bonanza of funds that they will get from compulsory purchase of properties and re-selling them to developers under Westconnex and the associated urban reactivation plans, than solving the city’s transport problems?
- Currently, the Government has a dark cloud of corruption hanging over it, the Westconnex/urban reactivation project is a breeding ground for further such corruption