

Submission: M4 Widening for WestConnex

I am against the proposed widening of WestConnex, and the WestConnex project as a whole for the following reasons:

- No convincing statistics to show that travel time will be faster than taking the train (based on travel times given by the Sydney Rail site, which are in fact shorter than those provided in the WestConnex project data)
- Building more roads has been shown to increase traffic rather than alleviate it, and therefore has the potential to increase traffic and resulting problems along the proposed thoroughfare
- Funds should be diverted into providing sustainable solutions to road congestion, i.e. better public transport
- Better public transport would be a more cost-friendly, inclusive and equitable solution to improving transport from Western Sydney to the city for people living in Western Sydney
- Particularly as the Federal Treasurer has noted that “poor people do not drive cars”, building roads rather than public transport will make travel to the city and access to employment least possible for those who can least afford it, thus widening the gap between rich and poor and not addressing barriers to employment
- Exhaust stacks do not have filters, and the concentrated exhaust that will be released as is into the atmosphere, posing a public health hazard – particularly as this corridor passed through highly-populated residential areas, and increased residential density is planned for these areas
- Increase in carbon emissions from increased traffic, at a time when world scientists and the UN agree that we should be desperately trying to reduce carbon emissions
- Work on this project should not go ahead until all details have been released to the public and have been duly debated and assessed. I refer to the incident of a local MP getting the government to agree to save Ashfield Park in return for not requesting information on the development. Avoidance of community consultation through acts such as this, and also through hiding the portal for submissions using the ‘robot.txt’ extension is underhanded, and the lack of transparency indicates that the government is wilfully hiding information about the development which is not in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration.