

Council Ref: BDC164/14
Contact: Ken Welsh
Phone: 9367 9241
Date: 12 September 2014



SSI 13-6148
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ABN: 92 379 942 645
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040
PO Box 45, Leichhardt NSW 2040
Phone: (02) 9367 9222 Fax: (02) 9367 9111
TTY: 9568 6758
Email: leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au
www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: SSI 13-6148 WestConnex M4 Widening Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

I am writing to advise you that Leichhardt Council considered an item in relation to the subject matter at its meeting on 9 September 2014. In doing so Council, resolved to write to you and: -

1. Express its concern that the EIS is deficient and does not provide the basis for making a determination in respect of the project. The EIS is deficient because it makes reference to the overall benefit/cost ratio of 2.55:1 as evidence for the cost/benefit of this stage of the project. The details of the benefit/cost analysis for the overall project have not been published and it is not possible to evaluate the factors that were taken into account, or omitted in arriving at the stated benefit/cost ratio for the overall project. Without these details it is not possible to ascertain whether the investment is the most appropriate use of funds when considered against other means of provided transport between Western Sydney, the CBD and the Airport/Botany Bay precinct. Details of the benefit/cost analysis for the overall project, and in respect of stage 1 in particular, must be provided and evaluated prior to a decision being made on the project.

The Environmental Impact Statement is also deficient in the absence of other critical information. The following must be provided and evaluated prior to a decision being made on the project:

- a. the State Government has announced plans to build 50,000 new houses on Parramatta Road (13 August 2014). However, these new houses and additional population and associated vehicles and their impact on this proposed M4 widening are not considered in the EIS;
- b. the EIS does not consider investment in alternative solutions to the traffic congestion such as public transport infrastructure investment as an alternative to road widening and reinstatement of tolls on the M4 project;
- c. information detailing how the WestConnex Motorway Project and M4 Widening will be coordinated with the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Program;

IMPORTANT

This letter contains important information. If you do not understand it please ask a relative or friend to translate it or come to Council and discuss the letter with Council's staff using the Telephone Interpreter Service.

English

IMPORTANTE

Questa lettera contiene delle informazioni importanti. Se non capisce il contenuto è pregata di chiedere aiuto ad un parente o un amico, oppure La Invitiamo di venire in prersona al Municipio a parlarne con un nostro implegato, utilizzando il Servizio Interprete Telefonico.

Italian

IMPORTANTE

Esta carta contiene información importante. Si usted no la entiende, pídale a un familiar o a un amigo que se la traduzca, o venga a la Oficina de la Municipalidad y hable acerca de la misma con el personal de la oficina a través del Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes.

Spanish

TIN QUAN TRỌNG

Tin tức trong thư này rất quan trọng. Nếu bạn không hiểu, hãy nhờ thân nhân hoặc bạn bè dịch cho bạn nghe hoặc tới văn phòng Hội Đồng Thành Phố để thảo luận với nhân viên qua dịch vụ thông ngôn điện thoại.

Vietnamese

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ

Το γράμμα αυτό περιέχει σπουδαίες πληροφορίες. Αν δεν το καταλαβαίνετε, παρακαλέστε ένα συγγενή ή φίλο να σας το μεταφράσει, ή ελάτε στο Δημαρχείο και συζητείστε το γράμμα με το προσωπικό του Δημαρχείου χρησιμοποιώντας την Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων.

Greek

重要信息

此信包含重要內容。若有不明白之處，可請親戚或朋友幫助翻譯。或請到市政會來，通過電話傳譯服務與市政會人員討論信的內容。

Chinese

- d. the concept plan for the total WestConnex Motorway Project, detailed business case, streetscape concept plans, urban design concept plans, portal and vent locations as well as the final alignment of the route;
 - e. the concept plan for the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Program;
 - f. the WestConnex Assumptions Book, produced by the WestConnex Delivery Authority (2013), as referred to in the WestConnex (M4 Widening) Environmental Impact Statement;
 - g. analysis of latent private car travel demand that may be activated through the spare capacity created by the WestConnex Motorway;
 - h. a comparison of the motorway expansion against an equivalent public transport network upgrade in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental considerations;
 - i. information outlining whether the project's traffic modelling has included traffic generated by changes in land use and densities likely to result from the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Program;
 - j. information on management and mitigation of social impacts, including:
 - i. cumulative impacts of the WestConnex Motorway and the Parramatta Road Urban Revitalisation projects on existing communities;
 - ii. community building initiatives required to foster connections between proposed new communities and existing communities; and
 - iii. health impacts of proposed planning projects on new and existing communities in keeping with NSW Health Impact guidelines.
2. Reiterate that the project should not proceed until the following items (from Council's resolution of 26 November 2013 – C537/13) have been made publically available and considered in detail:
- a. information and background studies, designs and assumptions that have informed the preparation of the detailed business case or design development for the WestConnex Motorway and the Urban Revitalisation project, including the cost benefit analysis;
 - b. information about scenarios being tested in relation to residential densities, land use mix and population in the proposed Structure Plan area;
 - c. the implementation timetable for the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Program;
 - d. identification of locations and population growth being considered as Urban Activation Precincts along the Parramatta Road corridor, in the Leichhardt local government area and in the Inner West generally;
 - e. information specifically relating to the WestConnex Motorway:
 - i. testing of various toll scenarios and their impact on surface traffic volumes;
 - ii. mode share assumptions and measures proposed to achieve the proposed mode share; and
 - iii. density assumptions for the designated "investigation areas".
 - f. additional traffic and public transport modelling and analysis of the WestConnex Motorway undertaken that takes into account:

- i. the forecast population levels associated with the urban revitalisation project, including its geographic distribution;
 - ii. a series of land use revitalisation scenarios which examine a variety of land use scenarios along the corridor (including a scenario which maintains existing densities in the eastern section of Parramatta Road);
 - iii. reductions in width of Parramatta Road, to one through lane and one public transport lane in each direction, between Hawthorne Canal and Camperdown;
 - iv. the 'constrained case' for Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport (as discussed in the 'Joint Study on Aviation Capacity for the Sydney Region') in combination with a new major airport in Sydney's western suburbs; and
 - v. locations being considered for 'Urban Activation Precincts' in the local government area and inner west generally.
- g. any urban design/built form analysis completed in relation to the route, in particular within Leichhardt;
- h. any urban economic modelling carried out in relation to the route, in particular, within Leichhardt, covering matters such as FSR, value capture etc;
- i. any traffic/transport modelling relating to vehicle numbers using the tunnel and vehicle numbers using the ground level route, especially in relation to Leichhardt;
- j. any financial modelling carried out in relation to the route, in particular modelling that relates to the proposed toll;
- k. a comprehensive community consultation programme to be instigated to consult with the Leichhardt Community on the WestConnex Motorway and Urban Revitalisation projects;
- l. all scenarios and supporting information prepared as part of the Integrated Land Use and Transport Structure Plan process be placed on public exhibition prior to finalisation of the Structure Plan. Information to be made available to the public should include:
 - i. urban feasibility modelling;
 - ii. PRECINX assessment of sustainability;
 - iii. proposed building heights and bulk;
 - iv. land use mix;
 - v. proposed active, public transport and road networks; and
 - vi. proposed location, timing and service levels for community infrastructure including hospitals, schools, OSHC, child care, community and recreation facilities.
- m. information including:
 - i. the exact route;
 - ii. location of entry and exit ramps;
 - iii. the location of the air pollution stacks go;
 - iv. the analyses done on travel times / vehicle volumes / peak hour traffic;
 - v. the analyses done on the routes of trucks/cars that do not want to pay the toll;
 - vi. location of additional parking for additional cars reaching the Inner West and CBD;

- vii. the cost/benefit ratio for the overall project;
- viii. the exact land area which is covered by the Parramatta Road corridor (Structure Plan Area) and the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Program;
- ix. any rezoning that is or could be proposed in the Leichhardt LGA.
- x. value capture mechanisms and apportionment of value uplift;
- xi. regulatory mechanisms to ensure housing diversity; and
- xii. public domain amenity improvements.

3. It should also be noted that the EIS has been poorly advertised and the period of time for submission too short for a project of this size, cost, significance and widespread impacts. Therefore, Council requests that the submission time be extended for a further month and advertising for the Environmental Impact Statement be improved.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Ken Welsh, Council's Strategic Transport Planner on 02 9367 9241.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Conroy
Director
Environmental & Community Management

