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Re: Westconnex M4-Mk Link Mod 2 The Crescent overpass. SSI-7485-Mod-2

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

To: The Director of Planning Assessments

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the planned flyover as it is presented in the online documents. I am hostile to the whole concept of WestConnex, the reprehensible waste of public money it represents, and the benefit it confers to a private operator.

The whole WestConnex project is predicated on easing congestion while at the same time inducing demand. This is a conflict of design and application. Any attempt to improve traffic flow should begin with reducing vehicle usage in the area well before any resort to monumental structures that disfigure the landscape. I do realise some in government especially have a penchant for modern brutalist concrete blots on the environment.

Concrete is responsible for 6 – 8 % of the global greenhouse gas emissions. Motor transport for roughly 30% of Australian greenhouse gas emissions. The facts on the table regarding emissions and the Paris climate targets. I could cite policy targets, if I could find the appropriate documents in the labyrinthine enclave of government, but it is obvious the Liberal and Labor Party and Bureaucrats ignore those policies at will.

I use a bicycle as my day to day transport. I hold a motor vehicle licence but do not own a car. I use public transport. As a person on a bicycle I often refer to the

planning criteria of the CROW manual, followed by the Netherlands and others regarding bicycle infrastructure. Paths should be at grade or in tunnels under roadways as it is easier for bicycles which are zero emission and human powered to propel themselves in straight lines on level ground, bicycles require 100% of the humans power (gravity and inertia notwithstanding) to propel themselves forward. Passenger cars and other motor vehicles only require the driver to press lightly on an accelerator or brake pedal, while the a passenger vehicle consumes 95% of the fuel propelling it's own weight forward.

The project is a waste of money, and this overpass is throwing good money after bad. It is ugly, it is badly sited, with the pedestrians having a sky walk as an option, not an option for any pedestrians who suffer from balance or vertigo issues. It is removing instead of replacing trees. And so on. It is laughable in other words.

Retain the traffic lights, improve the pedestrian access to the foreshore and to Easten park with a Dutch style pedestrian and bicycle fly over, and start reeling back motor vehicle infrastructure. Freeways and tollways in the inner city will be the 21st century equivalent of 19th century coal fired power plants.

Please abandon this insane planned flyover. Plant more trees, revive more wetlands and blue carbon, create a playground and parklands that invite people to abandon their cars in favour of walking, cycling and public transport. Impose a congestion tax on vehicles within a 10km radius of the CBD. Your children and your children's children will thank you for it – if we all live that long.

Yours sincerely,

Gilbert Grace