

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Dr Margaret Brandl

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As the Public Accountability Committee you have been asked to inquire into and report on the impact of the West Connex project. In particular: (a) the adequacy of the business case for the WestConnex project, including the cost-benefits ratio. Car owners will still use the WestConnex as commuters, instead of encouraging people to work locally - in the businesses you have attracted to the west. Or spending the money on improving rail transport to reduce cars on our roads. Congestion adds, noise, health issues, expense, and pollutes and endangers healthy human lifestyles for people imprisoned as commuters in non-working hours. The project will spend huge money on this horror stretch instead of on ameliorating our urban landscape. Look to the great cities of Europe which conserve heritage and make living in a huge city healthy and commuting, where necessary, affordable. (b) the cost of WestConnex project, including the size and reasons for overruns This mammoth construction will cut a swath of destruction of heritage buildings and precincts throughout its course. Sydney, Australia's first city, now a great Southern Hemisphere city, has a history. Greater Sydney has a history encoded in its buildings and urban landscapes for over 220 years. The construction of West Connex cuts a destructive irreparable swathe through its 230 years of architecture and urban growth and its age-old indigenous past. A city without its memory is no better off than a person without memory - doomed to its loss and loss of meaning. Attending to the needs of unhealthy citizens and correcting living spaces and polluted roads have devastating flow-on costs to this already hideously expensive project. M. Brandl Camperdown