

**Submission
No 232**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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Date Received: 30 August 2018

I'm appalled by the whole WestConnex project. It has already cost millions and disrupted the lives of many at little long term advantage to anyone but the toll collectors. The money should be spent on improving public transport.

At up to \$50 billion, WestConnex is one of the most expensive road projects ever undertaken in the world. A project of this scale, funded by taxpayers, should be subject to the most rigorous assessment and quality assurance processes available. However it has been independently verified that there has been a shocking lack of due diligence and rigour.

The National Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and Infrastructure Australia have all criticised the project and both the State and Federal Auditor General have raised serious concerns. On top of that, the business case for WestConnex makes clear it will dramatically increase congestion in our area by bringing 120,000 additional vehicles daily through the St Peters interchange. This is a significant threat to our future liveability and to investment in the city centre and the Green Square renewal area.

The last business case showed that on key corridors using public transport will be quicker than using WestConnex – so why is the Government pushing ahead with this flawed project?

- It is inconsistent with the NSW Government's policy to reduce the number of cars coming into the city and to reduce congestion;
- There has been inadequate planning and changing outcomes and the current goals of the project are not clear;
- It has a flawed business case based on assumptions that are no longer valid;
- The serious threats to our city's liveability including reduced air quality and the massive loss of parkland, trees and valuable inner city land; and
- A serious lack of transparency and consultation with affected communities.