

**Submission
No 269**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

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Legislative Council,
Committees
NSW Parliament
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SUBMISSION: Impact of WestConnex Project Inquiry

Since the Federal Govt offered billions of dollars to construct the above, I've sent many communications and suggestions to Parliamentarians as to other options than that of creating massive swathes of asphalt across our great city. All were ignored and most received not even an acknowledgement. Public transport is the most efficient ways of moving en masse people—it works elsewhere in the world very effectively. WestConnex—which seems to be ever increasing in its directions and costs—no longer just connecting the west to the CBD but has tentacles reaching out in all points of the compass. So great is the cost that the govt. has now re-instated tolls on the M4

Tax payers' funds should not be used for this massive project of tollway building. The business case does not consider other alternative such as public transport, a significant alternative to tollways.

Governance of this massive project has been criticized by NSW Auditor General and Infrastructure Australia.

Many thousands of Sydney's residents will have their health put at risk by the installation of unfiltered fume stacks—why such short term money saving?—costs will transfer to the State's/Federal governments' Health budget!

In Rozelle and the Inner West this will be especially detrimental to residents' health as 3 + such stacks will be very near to residents and schools.

The NSW government destroyed the Heritage suburb of Haberfield, with the loss of homes, parks, trees etc and creating through traffic increases by directing vehicles that previously did not go through the suburban streets, to now do so. This is in spite of the en masse signage stating that WestConnex would "keep 10,000 heavy vehicles off local roads and give them back to the communities". Not just misleading, but blatant lying.

Consultation on routes for W/C have been minimal—and what has occurred has been ignored. Just done as a box ticking exercise! And also frequently changing details re routes!

The visual impact on the Inner City has been totally negative.

The plans to extend the W/c into the northern beaches needs to be stopped before it gets beyond the thought bubble stage.

Public transport is the best way of moving masses of people around the city—and beyond. It's more efficient, less stressful on users than on vehicle drivers, results in less accidents (so saves lives, injuries, insurance costs etc) and is more environmentally friendly.

I suggest a tunnel under the Blue Mountains as easy quick access to the towns beyond—Bathurst, Orange, Parkes, Dubbo --where quality of life is great and cheaper than in Sydney, would be better way to spend infrastructure money.

Gretchen Gamble