

**Submission
No 292**

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Name: Mr Clayton Thomas

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The Director
c/- Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Public Accountability
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of WestConnex

Name: Clayton Thomas

To the Director,

Please find my comments on the Inquiry into the impact of WestConnex based on the Terms of Reference as follows.

I agree to my name being published.

(a) The adequacy of the business case for the WestConnex project, including the cost-benefits ratio

I do not believe that WestConnex will provide for the problems its trying to solve, and will negatively impact (as it has already done), the communities it is now knocking down.

(b) The cost of WestConnex project, including the size and reasons for overruns

I find it an astounding waste of money. Considering the environmental impact is crushing, and the actual service to Sydney arguable -- particularly as the airport and Port Botany links are no longer even happening, there seems little justification for the cost. This money would be better spent providing adequate public transport for the community. IMHO.

(c) The governance and structure of the WestConnex project including the relationship between Sydney Motorway Corporation, Roads and Maritime Services, the Treasury and its shareholding Ministers

I am of the opinion that WestConnex is the result of corruption at worst, and poor ethics at best. It has been impossible to have straight talking, honest, transparent dialog with WestConnex project management teams. They have consistently lied to households, or obfuscated to protect their poor planning and environmental impact.

(d) The compulsory acquisition of property for the project

Appalling, possibly unconstitutional, likely illegal, and terribly handled. People have been thrown out of their homes by the police during this process. This is an anti-community project.

(e) The recommendations of the Audit Office of New South Wales and the Australian National Audit Office in regards to WestConnex

Any audit is a good audit.

(f) The extent to which the project is meeting the original goals of the project as articulated in 2012

It's a big road. It makes people who like big roads feel happy that their government is delivering on its promise of big roads.

(g) The relationship between WestConnex and other toll road projects including the Sydney Gateway, Western Harbour Tunnel, F6 and Beaches Link

Motorists will be forced to spend even more money to get to work, and see their living standards suffer because of it.

(h) The circumstances by which WestConnex and the Sydney Gateway were declared to be separate projects in 2017

I'm sure any investigation into the machinations of these deals would find corruption.

(i) The cost of the project against its current valuation as determined through the sale of the Sydney Motorway Corporation and whether it represents a good investment for NSW taxpayers

I do not consider this a good investment.

(j) Any other related matter

The air pollution is dangerous for families living on or near the work sites. There is no transparency of planning, and households are misinformed, or openly lied to by individuals working on the project. There has been no consideration for the safety of households on WestConnex routes, and there are already frustrating limitations on the use of taxis, ambulances, garbage collection services etc. Hours of construction are changed last minute, with some work occurring as early as 4am directly in residential zones impacted by the worksite.

My primary, immediate concern is the impact on the health of community members in close proximity to the worksites. Secondly, the dishonesty and obfuscation of process and outcomes. We still don't know how dangerous it is to live on Campbell Rd. We have children.