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**Minutes of the  
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)  
held at the Leichhardt Service Centre, Level 2, Rooms 2-3  
2:00pm-4:30pm Thursday 4 April 2019**

The meeting commenced at 2:00pm

**In attendance:**

LJ Loch	WestProtects
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
Paul Jeffrey	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestConnex Action Group (WAG)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Michael Deegan	CEO, Inner West Council (IWC)
David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning, IWC
Kendall Banfield	Acting Manager Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Unit, IWC
Maree Laing	Community Organiser Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Unit, IWC
Brian Chadwell	Administration Officer Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Unit, IWC
Felix Liu	Engineer Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Unit, IWC
Manod Wickramasinghe	Co-ordinator Traffic Engineering Services (North), IWC
Rob Sherry	Unit Head (Transport) Roads & Motorways - Metropolitan Infrastructure, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Jacinta Hanemann	Regional Manager Operations – Metropolitan Infrastructure, EPA
Hala Fua	Operations Officer – Metropolitan Infrastructure, EPA

1. **Welcome by Group Manager Strategic Planning, IWC**

2. **Acknowledgement of Country**

3. **Apologies**

Maria Divis	Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Tim Collis	DP&E
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Association
Anne Picot	St Peters Resident
Graeme McKay	Haberfield resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association
Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Resident
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Michael Zanardo	Haberfield Resident
Elizabeth Johnstone	WestProtects

**Items for consideration by WCLF****Item 1: Minutes from 7 March 2019 meeting**

The previous meeting's minutes were approved subject to one amendment. In the list of attendees; Maria Divis' title should be listed as "A/Principal Compliance Officer." This is effective from January 2019.

**Item 2: WestConnex update reports****Stage 1 report**

Key points of discussion were:

1. The Southern Muirs / Parramatta Road West site is bordered by a very narrow footpath – this presents a danger to its users when combined with the adjacent road's high-speed traffic.
2. It was reported that a WestConnex traffic controller at the Bland Street / Parramatta Road intersection was standing well back from the corner of the intersection because it was considered to be "too dangerous" to stand closer to the road. Large numbers of school children pass by this corner. A further hazard is that scaffolding is being erected outside this building at this corner.
3. There is not enough room for pedestrians to wait at the traffic island in the middle of the pedestrian refuge in the middle of Parramatta Road when crossing to and from Haberfield and Ashfield.
4. Unsafe driver behaviour was observed near the Parramatta Road East construction site, where a truck was parked on Parramatta Road facing the wrong way.
5. It was reported that M4 East project staff have stated that the M4 East is due to open to traffic in June this year - possibly 13 June.
6. There is a period of 10-12 months after opening where RMS can require the contractor to rectify defects, such as poor workmanship. As RMS will undertake a final signoff on all these works, there shouldn't be any broken or sub-standard work after this time. Will Council be undertaking its own audit/inspection after RMS has signed off? Council staff will consider this.
7. It was reported that constant night works in relation to the M4 East in Haberfield-Ashfield are planned from 2 April to 7 May. The EPA representative undertook to check up on this in terms of compliance with EPA night-works guidelines.
8. Community members were disappointed that RMS has not committed to having a representative on the WCLF. Can the WestConnex Director be approached to determine if he will attend? Council staff undertook to ask.
9. It appears that Parramatta Road bus-stop issues keep getting passed to and from contractors to Government agencies. Council staff confirmed that Transport for NSW is the agency responsible.

*See Action Items 1 to 3 below*

**Stage 3A report**

Key points of discussion were:

1. Council's CEO has written to RMS asking that RMS purchase the satellite imagery showing ground movement and make it available. RMS has informed Council staff that relevant RMS staff will be meeting shortly to discuss this matter.
2. Council staff reported that in recent weeks, Council has not been aware of complaints about demolition and other works at the Pyrmont Bridge Road dive-site.
3. A community member speculated about a house at 21 Martin Street, Haberfield being acquired by RMS because of its proximity to work sites and risk of cracking. Around that location, tunnelling would be only 9m below the surface.
4. Council staff reported that the DP&E has undertaken to inform Council when the consistency assessment for the altered Stage 3A tunnel depths has been undertaken and whether a Modification will be required for this. Council staff thought it was unlikely a Modification would be required.
5. Community members expressed concern about the degree of difficulty of property owners being make claims over damage perceived to be related to WestConnex.

*See Action Item 4 below.*

**Stage 3B report**

Key points of discussion were:

1. Council staff reported that they have been discussing the issue of resident parking schemes and truck load-limit signs for the area around the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site. This is an issue that has been raised by forum members at previous meetings. Council staff have been examining the draft Stage 3B traffic and access management sub-plan and are discussing parking arrangements with Stage 3B contractors. The contractors have said they are open to working with Council to establish resident parking schemes. Council staff are currently awaiting a draft parking proposal from the Stage 3B contractors on parking arrangements.
2. As has been noted a prior WCLF meetings, Council had previously assumed that Stage 3B parking would be available in White Bay, but has learned that this is available for Stage 3A only. Parking for 400 cars will be available on the RRY site, but there will be 2,000 workers – hence there will a significant parking shortfall.
3. Council staff are currently investigating the details of the access points to all Stage 3B construction sites to determine the traffic impacts on residents – particularly impacts from trucks that are not spoil trucks.
4. Spoil trucks are less of a concern because they must adhere to approved routes on State Roads such as City West Link Road and will be monitored by GPS tracking. Workers' cars and trucks not carrying spoil are more of a concern because they are not required to adhere to approved routes and are likely to create parking problems on surrounding residential streets. Because tunnelling will be undertaken 24/7, parking impacts will be felt 24/7.
5. Council staff pointed out that implementation of any resident parking schemes and truck load-limitation signage would need to be approved by Traffic Committee and Council, and community consultation would be involved.

6. Community representatives expressed support for Council undertaking extraordinary steps in implementing resident parking schemes, particularly as Stage 3B construction activities will commence in coming months.
7. It was noted that whilst fines and fees bring in some income for Council, enforcement is however a costly activity. The Stage 3B contractor may be able to help fund enforcement.

*See Action Item 5 below*

### **Stage 2 report**

Most topics related to Stage 2 were also related to the other stages, which had been discussed in the previous parts of the report.

### **General report**

Key points of discussion were:

10. Regarding Council's WestConnex Local Area Improvement Scheme (LAIS), Council's CEO emphasised that there should be RMS-backed solutions to problems caused by RMS. RMS should therefore co-operate with Council on LAIS implementation.
11. A community member stated that the pedestrian crossing across Dobroyd Parade at Waratah Street at Haberfield doesn't provide a safe journey for pedestrians even though it is a two-stage crossing. Could a 'land bridge' for pedestrians be constructed?
12. Minutes from a recent meeting between Centre for Air Quality Research (CAR) staff, community members and staff from various councils (including Inner West) will be sent to WCLF members when available. CAR is convening a one-day seminar on 30 May 2019 – information is available on CAR's website.
13. It was noted that Stage 3B contractors have agreed to attend relevant RMS WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG) meetings.

*See Action Items 6 & 7 below*

### **Item 3: EPA update**

Key points discussed were:

1. The EPA representative was asked to let the forum know of staffing changes in EPA now that the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been absorbed into the Premier's Department.
2. EPA staff recently met with Haberfield P&C representatives about air quality monitoring in the near-future. EPA staff also plan to meet with St. Peter's P&C staff to discuss air quality monitoring.
3. Recent EPA regulatory actions include the issuing of a caution over sediment tracking onto Wattle Street and Parramatta Road, and a dust incident at a Concord construction site.
4. A community advocate asked EPA why M4 East air quality monitoring is recording high readings and has queried whether EPA agrees that air quality impacts are higher now than what was predicted in the Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). EPA staff have recently asked OEH staff to review the M4 East air quality data.

5. The idea of Council encouraging an 'adopt-a-monitor' (air quality) program was discussed. There are issues around cost, but also the process of analysing and processing the data.
6. A community advocate has been looking for volunteers to learn how to install and read air-quality monitors. He will train interested volunteers. Council's Community Organiser is assisting with the call for volunteers.

*See Action Items 8 & 9 below*

#### **Item 4: DP&E update**

The DP&E representative was unable to attend this meeting.

#### **Item 5: Other business**

Key points discussed were:

1. Council staff stated that a new *Know Your Rights* flyer was being prepared for Stage 3A. Due to overlapping project stages, community members expressed concern that this flyer may wrongly divert Stage 1 or complaints to the Stage 3A contractor. Council's CEO stated that as Council was examining the larger issue of flyer distribution, he did not want the flyer to be bulk-distributed.
2. Community members expressed concern that most WestConnex information is in English only. Council staff explained that this issue is currently being discussed with WestConnex contractors, who have committed to messages in other languages about interpreter services.
3. It was reported that RMS has set up an 1800 number for Stage 3A.
4. Community members expressed concern that WCX assets and sites aren't labelled clearly to enable residents to distinguish between the different stages and know who should be receiving their complaints..
5. Community members sought an assurance that when residual lands were handed to Council, the trees, landscaping and other facilities were in satisfactory condition.

*See Action Item 10 below*

#### **Summary of actionable items**

##### **Item 2 actions**

##### **Stage 1 actions**

1. *Action:* That Council takes up Points 1 to 4 within these minutes with the Stage 1 contractor and/or relevant State agencies. *Current status:* These issues have been raised by Council staff and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
2. *Action:* EPA representative to report back on the status of recent Haberfield night works in relation to compliance with EPA guidelines. *Current status:* EPA will report back to a future WCLF meeting.
3. *Action:* Council staff to invite RMS's WestConnex Director to attend WCLF meetings. This invitation has been sent, and a response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

##### **Stage 3A actions**

4. *Action:* Council staff to clarify the process of substratum acquisitions. *Current status:* Council staff are obtaining this information from Council's Properties section, and this will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

**Stage 3B actions**

5. *Action:* Council staff to continue to update WCLF about RRY site parking arrangements and truck load limitation restrictions. *Current status:* Updates to be given at subsequent WCLF meetings.

**General actions**

6. *Action:* Council staff to raise with RMS the issue of inadequate pedestrian crossing arrangements across Dobroyd parade at Waratah Street, Haberfield. *Current status:* Council staff have raised this issue and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
7. *Action:* Council staff to keep WCLF informed of meetings and activities of the Centre for Air Quality Research (CAR). *Current status:* At the June WCLF meeting, Council staff to report back on the 31 May 2019 CAR symposium.

**Item 3 actions**

8. *Action:* EPA staff to keep WCLF informed of changes in EPA resulting from former OEH functions being undertaken by Premier's Department. *Current status:* EPA to provide updates to future meetings as information is available.
9. *Action:* EPA staff to inform WCLF of the outcome of the OEH review of M4 East air quality data from the Haberfield Primary School monitoring stations. *Current status:* EPA to provide this information to future meetings as it becomes available.

**Item 5 actions**

10. *Action:* Council staff to request that WestConnex contractors included a statement in multiple languages about available translation services. *Current status:* This request has been made to contractors, who have agreed to undertake this action.

**The meeting concluded at 4:10pm**

**Next meeting:** **Thursday 2 May 2019, 10:00am to 12:30pm**  
Level 5 Room 1, Ashfield Service Centre  
260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield