

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at the Ashfield Service Centre, Level 6
10:00am - 12:30pm Thursday 7 February 2019**

The meeting commenced at 10:05am

In attendance:

Anne Picot	St Peters Resident
Paul Jeffrey	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestConnex Action Group (WAG)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield resident
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
Graeme McKay	Haberfield resident
Liz Johnstone	WestProtects
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning Inner West Council (IWC)
Kendall Banfield	WestConnex Unit Manager, IWC
Maree Laing	WestConnex Unit Community Organiser, IWC
Brian Chadwell	WestConnex Unit Administration Officer, IWC
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Maria Divis	Senior Compliance Officer, DP&E
Jacinta Haneman	Manager Regional Operations – Metropolitan Infrastructure, EPA

1. **Welcome by Group Manager Strategic Planning, IWC**
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies**

LJ Loch	WestProtects
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield resident
Michael Zanardo	Haberfield resident
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Association
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 6 December 2018 meeting

The previous meeting's minutes were approved subject to the following amendments:

1. Item 2, Stage 2, Point 5 – each instance of the word 'median' should be read as 'median strip'.
2. Item 3, Point 9 – EPA did *not* send representatives to the Geneva Conference, but was asked to comment and report back on the conference based on what had previously reported in an article in The Guardian.

Item 2: WestConnex update reports

Stage 1 report

Key points of discussion were:

1. Highway patrol officers are enforcing rules that prevent large WestConnex employee dog-and-truck parking on local streets such as Bland Street at Haberfield. Sometimes dog-and-truck drivers leave engines running, creating a noise disturbance. Community members can contact the highway patrol or the Burwood local police command over these kind of issues. Burwood police have agreed to monitor the situation.
2. B-double trucks have recently been driving through Bland Street, as has occurred in the past, and residents have been woken by the noise. A community member was first told by the trucking company's receptionist that the trucks were working on Sydney Metro (rail), then told it was for M4 East.
3. The old bus stop near the footbridge on Parramatta Road city-bound has been moved to the front of the Muirs site. It has no shelter and there is a long distance between bus stops because of 'temporary' relocations. The long distance creates public transport access issues, particularly for the elderly. The west-bound bus-stop is currently under a shop awning but it will soon be moved. There is a concern that when it does there will be no shelter. All bus-stop changes should be satisfactory to the community.
4. A community member had reported a 'lost truck' in Haberfield, i.e. a truck departing from approved routes. A formal complaint was lodged with video evidence, and the case is to be heard on Monday 11 February 2019. The penalty is likely to be the responsibility of a sub-contractor in Queensland. The community member doesn't want the subcontractor to pay the fine – the project should do this.
5. M4 East is offering post-construction property condition reports. They have a single contractor doing this, but it is reported it takes a long time to communicate with this contractor.
6. It was reported that a union had issued a press release this morning about a sewage leak problem on a WestConnex site. Following is a link to a relevant news article:
<https://www.miragenews.com/overflowing-sewerage-halts-work-on-westconnex/>
7. A community member was critical of the quality of work for the restoration of footpaths in the Haberfield-Ashfield area, e.g. rubber separators protruding above the level of the concrete surface.

See Action Items 1 & 2 below

Stage 2 report

Key points of discussion were:

1. In St Peters, footpaths are in poor condition and there is “traffic chaos”, particularly in Applebee, Hutchinson and Lackey Streets. This creates safety issues for pedestrians. There are not enough traffic controllers to manage all the traffic changes and the cumulative impacts from private and public construction sites.
2. Someone has posted a sign on Applebee Street saying residents can't park along part of the street. It appears Council hasn't posted this sign, so who has? Was it the construction company for the apartment development site? Also, there are not enough traffic controllers to manage the frequent traffic changes in this area. With so many closed-off streets, there should be signs which indicate alternative routes to that street.
3. The issue of Brown Street becoming a traffic rat-run because of the WestConnex traffic changes is ongoing.
4. The zebra crossing at Edinburgh Road just off Bedwin Road is not safe, as trucks and other vehicles are able to exit Bedwin Road at speed. This is more related to Metro (rail) than WestConnex, but it is still an issue and there needs to be more co-ordination between these two major projects.
5. Residents met with New M5 project staff in Simpson Park on 25 January 2019, but didn't gain the impression from the project's traffic managers that they knew how to deal with all these traffic issues.
6. DP&E compliance staff explained that New M5 staff liaise with Council's traffic managers and police on how to manage and mitigate these traffic issues. It was explained that the project's conditions of approval allow the contractor to run heavy vehicles during times when these vehicles would normally be restricted.
7. In addition to WestConnex, Sydney Metro (rail) and large apartment construction sites, the expansion of Marrickville Metro nearby at Smidmore Street has started contributing to traffic issues in this area.
8. Council had commented on the New M5 draft Operational Parking and Access Plan, which has been posted on the WestConnex website. Comments on this plan closed on 31 January 2019.
9. The Stage 2 contractor is planning on planting trees on the verge area over the underground stormwater storage tanks. Is this safe and practical? Is there sufficient space to allow for tree roots?
10. At the signalised pedestrian crossing of the Princes Highway at Campbell Street, the pedestrian phase is too short (less than 15 seconds from green to flashing red). This allows drivers to turn the corner and come too close to pedestrians. The phasing needs to be altered. A 'countdown' function could also be added.

See Action Items 3 to 5 below.

Stage 3 report

Key points of discussion were:

1. Can a pre-construction property condition report be negated by a home renovation that occurs prior to the post-construction report?

2. There is concern that project contractors are not co-ordinating the property condition reports where there is an overlap between the different stages.
3. There is a need for Council to progress its investigation of the truck restrictions for Darling Street and other roads around Rozelle and Lilyfield.
4. The view of WCLF is that the onus of proof for responsibility for damage to premises resulting from WestConnex should be with the contractors, not the property owner.
5. It was reported that the Stage 3A contractor has opened a community drop-in information centre on Alt Street, Haberfield. A second one is not planned for Stage 3A.
6. It was noted that RMS's WestConnex director has been helpful to the community and supportive of their efforts to resolve issues, particularly in the Haberfield-Ashfield area.
7. One of the shortcomings of the project's notification process is that flyers are in only one language. There is a need for multiple translators when contractors are door-knocking. Recent flyers placed in letterboxes have no WestConnex branding or graphics. It appears 'plain', so residents are not likely to notice them so much.
8. How can we get the project to try to contact the property owner about property condition reports and other matters – not just letterbox residents?
9. Can the community view and comment on draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sub-plans?

See Action Items 6 to 13 below

General project report

Key points of discussion were:

1. Staff are still trying to recruit a traffic engineer for Council's WestConnex Unit.
2. This forum formally supports the parliamentary inquiry's recommendations addressing WestConnex air quality concerns.
3. Community members are aware that RMS has committed to moving the electrical cabinet on the Waratah Street footpath.
4. RMS is now calling for community members of the 2019 WestConnex Community Reference Groups (WCRGs). The application deadline is 22 February 2019.

Item 3: EPA update

Key points discussed were:

1. The principal DP&E WestConnex compliance officer will soon be on secondment to the EPA for the next 6 months.
2. EPA is reviewing the NSW Clean Air Regulation. It will reform emission reduction actions, including actions related to electric/hybrid vehicles, public transport and air quality standards. Note that vehicle emissions standards are set and managed at the Federal level.
3. The transcript of the court case about odour from the St Peters Interchange (SPI) site can be purchased from the Land & Environment Court after 22 February 2019. WCLF will be advised about the next hearing date for this matter.
4. In late December 2018, EPA issued a formal warning to the New M5 contractor in relation to out-of-hours work.

5. EPA has been investigating dust and sewage leak incidents in relation to the M4 East.
6. EPA included in its WestConnex parliamentary inquiry submission information on what the community has been raising with EPA.

See Action Items 14 to 16 below.

Item 4: DP&E compliance update

Key points discussed were:

1. As mentioned above, the principal DP&E WestConnex compliance officer will soon be on secondment to the EPA for the next 6 months.
2. DP&E has been involved in investigation of GPS tracking systems for WestConnex construction trucks. It is possible that drivers would not be paid until it has been confirmed that they had travelled the approved route. The GPS tracker is called a 'virtual superintendent', and trucks would be confined by a 'geofence'.
3. Signage to identify trucks associated with WestConnex trucks is now being used.
4. These truck management measures could be applied to future projects such as Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT).

Item 5: Other business

1. The following questions were submitted for considerations via email from a Haberfield Association member:
 - a) Is there a preference for 'To' emails or 'Bcc' emails to relay WCLF agendas and minutes. In general, forum members preferred e-mails to be 'Bcc'.
 - b) Is Council still planning on implementing a register of properties known to be possibly damaged by WestConnex? Yes, staff are compiling this information and are concurrently undertaking improvements to the WestConnex web pages as a whole.
 - c) Can the minutes be sent out earlier, and as a document marked 'DRAFT minutes'? Yes, this can be done.
2. Forum members are encouraged to email suggestions for agenda items and edits to minutes ahead of meetings. Suggested edits to minutes would still be subject to discussion and ratification before minutes are finalised.

See Action Item 17 below.

Summary of actionable items

Item 2 actions

Stage 1 actions

1. *Action:* Council staff to request to RMS/TfNSW that there be appropriate distances between bus-stops and shelter and seats at each stop along the Parramatta Road at Haberfield-Ashfield - even if 'temporary'. *Current Status:* Council staff have raised this matter with the Stage 1 contractor at a recent interface meeting and were advised that the contractor is not obliged to provide seating and a shelter where the relocated bus stop had an 'incidental shelter, such as under a shop awning. Bus stop locations have been discussed between the project and RMS/TfNSW at project meetings. Council staff

have nonetheless raised this matter with RMS/TfNSW and will report the response to a future WCLF meeting.

2. *Action:* Council staff to audit the restoration works footpaths for quality and adequacy. *Current Status:* That Stage 1 contractor has advised Council staff that it needs to obtain RMS signoff for all these footpath works.

Stage 2 actions

3. *Action:* Council staff to assess plans to ensure plantings are appropriate over the stormwater storage tanks on Campbell Street, St Peters. *Current status:* Council staff are investigating and will report findings at a future WCLF meeting.
4. *Action:* Council staff to advocate to RMS that the pedestrian phase at the crossing of Princes Highway at Campbell Street be altered to improve pedestrian safety. *Current status:* This request has been forwarded to RMS and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
5. *Action:* Council staff to ensure WCLF's St Peters resident representative has a copy of the latest version of the New M5 *Urban Design & Landscape Plan (UDLP)*. *Current status:* This has been done.

Stage 3 actions

6. *Action:* WCLF agendas and minutes to be split Stage 3 into two reports: 3A and 3B. Reverse the order of consideration of the stages every second meeting. *Current status:* Council staff will begin doing this from now on.
7. *Action:* Council staff to determine if truck load limit signs and other traffic-control directive signs have been erected or re-erected on Bland Street, Haberfield. *Current status:* Council staff are investigating and will report back to a future WCLF meeting.
8. *Action:* Council staff to convey to the Stage 3B contractor that the community is opposed to use of the Alt Street Haberfield Stage 3A community centre being used for Stage 3B. *Current status:* Council staff were recently informed by the Stage 3B contractor they are in the process of investigating sites for a community centre in the Rozelle area.
9. *Action:* Council staff to request the Stage 3A contractor to retain the garden around the Norfolk Island Pine on the Haberfield Muirs site. *Current status:* Council's urban forest manager has requested this, and the Stage 3A contractor has agreed.
10. *Action:* Council staff to advocate to the Stage 3A and 3B contractors that property condition report offers should be WestConnex-branded and in languages in addition to English. In addition, translators should be present when door-knocking and property owners should be notified by mail (not just residents). *Current status:* Council staff have forwarded this request to the contractors and will provide an update at a future WCLF meeting.
11. *Action:* Council staff to ask the Stage 3A contractor if a pre-construction property condition report be negated by a home renovation that occurs prior to the post-construction report? *Current status:* Council staff have sent this question to the Stage 3A contractor and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
12. *Action:* Council staff to confirm with RMS and the Stage 3B contractor that the community is able to view and comment on CEMP sub-plans. *Current status:* Council staff have asked the RMS and the contractor, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF.
13. *Action:* Council to ask if the Stage 3A contractor will provide community information centre(s) at locations other than Haberfield and provide a 3D model of Stage 3A at one

or more of the centres. *Current status:* Council staff have asked the contractor, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF.

Item 3 actions

14. *Action:* EPA to confirm that ambient air quality monitoring at the St Peters site is being reported. *Current status:* The EPA WCLF representative has checked the WestConnex website, and the data for St Peters St is available for December 2018 to February 2019. It is available from the 'About WestConnex' page on the WestConnex site: <https://www.westconnex.com.au> – use the "About WestConnex" tab and select 'Air Quality' under the banner 'Environment'. From there, scroll down to 'Monitoring Air Quality' and select the 'here' for New M5: <https://www.westconnex.com.au/air-quality> From the 'Air Quality Monitoring' page locate the required area. Filters can be applied by applying 'date from' to 'date to' options: <http://airodis.ecotech.com.au/westconnexm5new/index.html?site=0&station=0>
15. *Action:* EPA to identify both the area and source of PM2.5 increases that have been identified through M4 East monitoring. *Current status:* The EPA representative is investigating and will report back to future WCLF meeting.
16. *Action:* EPA to explain how it has been liaising with schools over air quality and other WestConnex issues. *Current status:* The EPA representative to report on this item at the next WCLF meeting.

Item 5 actions

17. *Action:* Council staff to label non-ratified Minutes as 'Draft'. *Current status:* Done.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

Next meeting: **Thursday 7 March 2019, 10:00am to 12:30pm**
Level 1 Council Depot
15-17 Unwins Bridge Rd, St Peters