

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at the St Peters Depot, Waranara Room
10:00am - 12:30pm Thursday 7 March 2019**

The meeting commenced at 10:01am

In attendance:

Paul Jeffrey	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestConnex Action Group (WAG)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield resident
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Association
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Jennifer Killen	St Peters resident
Margot Oliver	St Peters resident
Elizabeth 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	Unit Head (Transport) Roads & Motorways - Metropolitan Infrastructure, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
George Orel	Senior Operations Officer – Metropolitan Infrastructure, EPA
Maria Divis	A/Principal Compliance Officer, Department of Environment & Planning (DP&E)
Tim Collis	Compliance Officer, DP&E

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

LJ Loch	WestProtects
Rachel Davies	Ashfield resident
Anne Picot	St Peters resident
Graeme McKay	Haberfield resident
Michael Deegan	CEO, IWC

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 7 February 2019 meeting

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

1. Page 5, Stage 1, Points 1 and 2 – each instance of the phrase 'shuttle bus' should be read as 'dog & truck'.
2. Query about Action Items 10 & 11: if Council property condition reports won't be used by the project, and include a disclaimer against relying on them in court, their value is questioned. Council staff pointed out that the disclaimer was drafted by Council's Legal Counsel.
3. Query about Action Item 7: Have the 3-tonne (3T) load limitation signs been replaced in Haberfield? Council staff advised they are planned to be replaced in mid-March 2019.

Item 2: WestConnex update reports

Stage 3B report

Key points of discussion were:

1. Can 3T signs be installed to prevent construction trucks entering local/residential streets around the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site? This request is being discussed with Council's traffic staff. Community members felt this should be a priority given progress of WestConnex Stage 3B.
2. Council staff explained that for Stage 3B there is a significant shortfall of on-site parking for workers. All agreed it is appropriate that resident parking schemes be considered. Further detail on Stage 3B traffic/parking arrangements will be within the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) traffic and access sub-plan – to be made available to Council shortly.
3. The forum noted that the local Police (not Council) is the appropriate body to approach when it is seen that large trucks are seen using 3T limited streets.
4. Council staff indicated they would invite appropriate traffic management staff to the next forum meeting to discuss these Stage 3B traffic/parking issues.
5. A community member raised concern about the asbestos dust from demolition of the Rice-Grower's Co-op building next to the RRY site. DP&E and EPA need to be aware of this.

See Action Item 1 to 3 below

Stage 3A report

Key points of discussion were:

1. The Stage 1 contractor has been progressively handing Haberfield-Ashfield work sites and assets over to the Stage 3A contractor.
2. Regarding concerns over Stage 3A tunnel depths, the contractor has asserted that shallower depths will not affect buildings above. Although depths have changed from what was shown in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), this is allowed as long as *measured impacts* are consistent with EIS estimates.

3. The Stage 3A contractor has said that the minimum depth is 5m, as this is the length of the rock bolts they use. Even shallower depths are possible, but a different kind of reinforcement method is adopted.
4. Community members are concerned that tunnel notations on property titles will affect owners' ability to carry out certain works and may reduce property values.
5. Community members stated that they would like Council staff to follow up with State agencies and other parties about responses to Council letters.
6. Community members want Council to give WestConnex issues higher priority in media activities. Media around the recent Buruwan Park rally was cited as an example of the type of media Council should be generating. It was noted that this rally was facilitated by the WestConnex Community Organiser.
7. A community member noted that vibration is a more significant risk for older homes because they use lime-mortar. Does Council have a geotechnical experts that can observe and assess the impact of vibration from WestConnex construction? Council staff's response was Council doesn't have that kind of expertise.
8. A community member noted that from experience, rescue of trees within and around construction sites is possible, provided trees are identified early in the process and don't affect the site's operation. An example is the preservation of a large Norfolk Island Pine within a Stage 3A construction site at Haberfield.

See Action Items 4 & 5 below.

Stage 2 report

Key points of discussion were:

1. A community member was concerned that in the St Peters triangle area, pedestrians are finding it very difficult to walk around. DP&E staff stated that they had liaised with the project's Environmental Representative for Stage 2 on these issues, and had undertaken an unannounced inspection/audit. Based on the inspection, DP&E has required the project to develop alternative pedestrian access options.
2. A community member raised the issue of the poor quality of the footpath at the Campbell Street / May Street / Unwins Bridge Road intersection, particularly at the front of the Town and Country Hotel.
3. A community member stated that the 3T load limit sign on Campbell Street and the one-way sign at end of Hutchinson Street need to be replaced. There are likely to be other similar signs that are missing and should be replaced.

See Action Items 6 to 8 below

Stage 1 report

Key points of discussion were:

1. A community member was concerned that more Stage 1 trucks and other vehicles are parking on local streets because Stage 1 is losing parking on its construction sites as they are being handed over to Stage 3A.
2. As was the case at last month's forum meeting, community members raised the issue of poor quality of footpath finishes by contractors. It was noted that as RMS is responsible sign-off of these works, so defects should be raised with RMS as soon as they are noticed.

3. A community member stated that a further Variable Message Sign (VMS) was being installed on the verge at the corner of Wattle and Alt Streets. Nearby residents have said they have not been notified. Residents and others have been informed by RMS that the cabinet at that location would be moved.

General project report

Key points of discussion were:

6. The 1800 helpline seems to only be open from 9am to 5pm. A community member had called the helpline at 5:45pm last night, but no one answered.
7. Community members raised the issue of WestConnex trucks and other vehicles idling to keep their lights on. The solution to this is fairly simple – project vehicles should be required to have an additional battery (charged with solar panels) that can power lights.

Item 4: DP&E update

Key points discussed were:

1. DP&E compliance staff have requested information from the Stage 3A Environmental Representative about asbestos dust issues. The DP&E representative explained that that the 'unexpected finds protocol' was followed for handling of asbestos on the Stage 3A site at Haberfield-Ashfield. Notwithstanding, DP&E is following up on this matter.
2. The DP&E Compliance Team is seeking to recruit additional staff.
3. The DP&E Post Approvals Team is examining Stage 3A tunnel depth issue that has been raised by Council and the community. DP&E has advised that RMS has the power to approve variations such as these if it can be achieved via a 'consistency assessment'.
4. DP&E has a new website which enables searches for items on the site without the need for a subscription. However to receive notifications, a subscription is needed. The old website will be kept online for a little longer.

Item 3: EPA update

Key points discussed were:

1. EPA has a member of staff dedicated to WestConnex, with two assistants.
2. EPA and NSW Health staff will be meeting with Haberfield Primary School P&C members in two weeks' time to discuss air quality monitoring and issues.
3. The State agencies' monthly regulators' meeting was held last week.
4. Community members suggested to the EPA representatives that university academics be involved in EPA's consideration of air quality issues. Examples of relevant university institutions are the Centre for Air Pollution, energy and health Research (CAR) at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research at Glebe, and the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) hub at the University of Wollongong.
5. EPA is now liaising with the Office of Environmental Health (OEH) about monitoring results for PM2.5 at Haberfield, which seem to indicate a higher level than the Sydney average. EPA data indicates that pollutant levels are generally rising across NSW, although they are still within an acceptable range.
6. EPA pointed out that any air-quality monitor located near a main road will give higher than average readings.

Summary of actionable items**Item 2 actions****Stage 3B actions**

1. *Action:* EPA follow up on residents' concerns about asbestos dust from demolition of the rice growers' co-op building near the RRY site. *Current status:* Progress will be reported by EPA to future WCLF meeting(s).
2. *Action:* Council to ask Sydney Trains to explain to residents why they have been marking the roads on Denison and Lilyfield Road. *Current status:* Council staff have requested Sydney Trains to carry out this action, and an update will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
3. *Action:* Council to investigate the installation of 3T load limit signs and resident parking schemes in the area around the RRY construction site. *Current status:* Council staff are currently reviewing the draft Stage 3B traffic & access CEMP sub-plan, and traffic staff are considering Council actions that may be required. Traffic staff will attend the April 2019 WCLF meeting to discuss this item, and progress will be reported to future WCLF meetings.

Stage 3A actions

4. *Action:* Council staff to consider extending the dropoff zone outside Haberfield Primary School. *Current status:* Council's traffic staff are currently discussing this action with Haberfield Primary School representatives. Progress will be reported to future WCLF meeting(s).
5. *Action:* EPA to notify DP&E and SafeWork and Stage 3A contractors about reported asbestos dust from demolitions at Haberfield-Ashfield. *Current status:* Progress will be reported to future WCLF meeting(s).

Stage 2 actions

6. *Action:* Council staff to investigate pedestrian issues in the St Peters triangle and Campbell Street areas. *Current status:* The WestConnex Unit Manager has recently met with Council Access and Inclusion Planning Leader to discuss these issues, and they have been raised at a recent Stage 2 interface meeting. A Stage 2 site visit is planned. Progress will be reported to future WCLF meeting(s).
7. *Action:* Council staff to identify missing traffic signs in the St Peters area and replace as required. *Current status:* Council's traffic staff are currently investigating, and progress will be reported to future WCLF meeting(s).
8. *Action:* Council staff to request that Stage 2 contractors fix the footpath at the Campbell / May Street / Unwins Bridge Road intersection. *Current status:* This request was made at the recent Stage 2 project interface meeting. Progress will be reported to future WCLF meeting(s).

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

Next meeting: **Thursday 4 April 2019, 2:00pm to 4:30pm**
Level 2 Rooms 2-3, Leichhardt Service Centre
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt