

**Draft Minutes of the  
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)  
held at Leichhardt Service Centre  
10:00am-12:30pm, Thursday 3 August 2017**

The meeting commenced at 10.00am

**In attendance:**

Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)
Peter Boyle	Newtown Residents Against WestConnex (NRAW)
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Matthew Janssen	Rozelle Public School Parents & Citizens (P&C)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Anne Picot	WestCONnex Action Group
Paul Jeffery	NoW PT
Lesley Treleaven	Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex (CRAW)
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Chris Kerle	Community Organiser No WestConnex Public Transport (NoW PT)

Richard Pearson	Administrator Inner West Council (IWC)
John Warburton	Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement IWC
Ken Welsh	Transport Planner IWC
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit IWC
Felix Liu	Engineer WestConnex Unit IWC
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer WestConnex Unit IWC
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure EPA
Robert Mels	Operations Officer Metropolitan Infrastructure EPA
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Elizabeth Williamson	Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)

**1. Welcome by Administrator**

The Administrator welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

**3. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

Rhea Liebmann	WestCONex Action Group
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Resident

#### **4. Items for consideration by WCLF**

##### **Item 1: Minutes from 6 July 2017 meeting & update on actionable items**

**It was determined** that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 6 July 2017 be adopted subject to minor amendments:
  - Item 1, dot point 2 – add: Workers to sign on and tool box meetings to be held at the former RMS Motor Registry Office, Five Dock.
  - Item 1, dot point 4 – add: Concerns continue to be raised in relation to the absence of a marshalling area for trucks from the M4 East in Haberfield, other than for them to circle local roads (Parramatta Road, Wattle Street, Ramsay Street, Fairlight Street and Great North Road). Concerns raised at what solution is being sought for trucks from M4 East project, and the tunnelling will be finished before an M4 East solution is found.
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- Concerns continue to be raised about stabling of trucks for Stage 3. RMS has confirmed there will be a stabling area for Stage 3 at White Bay, but truck access to this facility was raised as an issue. The DP&E representative advised that this type of detail will be outlined in the Stage 3 EIS and will be reviewed as part of the EIS assessment.
- The DP&E representative was asked if there was a condition of approval that covered stabling for the M4 East. The response was that in the project's Traffic Management Plan, there is reference to an 'exceptional circumstances route'. The issue with M4 East is that any delay on-site is seen as an exceptional circumstance and as such trucks are using local roads for stabling on a regular basis. This is a matter of interpretation of the condition.

##### **Item 2: Council's Traffic & Transport Services Manager update**

**It was determined** that the report be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Due to residents finding there was decreased parking space available around WestConnex construction compounds in Haberfield and St Peters, Council was asked to address the issue by investigating implementation of temporary resident parking schemes. Reference was made to a similar scheme implemented by Strathfield Council.
- For Stage 1, streets identified for resident parking schemes were those around Haberfield Public School - including (but not limited to) Alt, Denman, Bland, Walker and Wolseley streets.

- For Stage 2, Council has recently undertaken the Sydenham Parking Strategy Review, which includes the St Peters area. Currently a draft strategy is being prepared and will be submitted to Council's October 2017 Traffic Committee meeting for endorsement.
- WCLF members requested that Council undertakes parking capacity surveillance in affected streets in Haberfield to obtain an indication of occupancy levels. Once a draft scheme is developed, residents will be consulted on how the overflow is affecting neighbouring streets. The draft will be reviewed. Over 50% of residents must be supportive of the scheme for it to proceed beyond this point.
- The report is then put to the Local Traffic Committee (which meets monthly) for endorsement. This committee includes representatives from RMS, Police, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Council. Residents are able to attend to speak to items. RMS and Police representatives have the ability to veto decisions by referring them to a regional traffic committee for review. If endorsed, the proposed resident parking scheme proceeds to the next Council meeting for adoption.
- As required by Action Item 1 from the previous (6 July 2017) WCLF meeting, print copies of the M4 East condition of approval relevant to the management of parking during the construction phase (i.e. Conditions D43 and D57) were distributed at the WCLF meeting.
- Although the M4 East Construction Management Plan (available on SMC's website) includes an employee parking plan, concerns were raised that this plan is not working. It was suggested that as part of worker induction, all workers should be made to place a project identification sticker on their car to help with discouraging parking in residential streets.
- The issue of ongoing weekend works in Campbell Street and Campbell Road at St Peters was raised by WCLF community members. A question was asked about why the road closures seem to be limited only to weekends, when Sydney traffic is just as congested on weekends as it is on week days. The DP&E representative advised that the Traffic Management Centre issues an Occupancy Licence for road closures on a month-by-month basis. The licence covers standard approved construction hours only. To conduct works outside these hours (including night works), a licence variation must be obtained via EPA.

*Refer to Actionable Items 1 and 2 listed below.*

### **Item 3: Report back on the State WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG)**

**It was determined** that the report be received and noted.

Council's Manager WestConnex Unit provided a verbal update on the 18 July meeting of the WCRG, and a general discussion followed.

Key points raised during the discussion were:

- It was acknowledged that attendance by the M4 East Environment Manager and Deputy Project Director was beneficial, but more of these senior technical project staff are needed from all three stages of WestConnex.

- Community and Council WCLF representatives have continued to raise concerns with SMC about the lack of technical staff attending WCRG meetings. It was noted that at the last WCRG meeting, SMC representatives had confirmed that New M5 project staff would not be attending WCRG meetings. Though the Administrator had already written to the SMC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on this matter, WCLF community members requested that Council continues to raise the matter with SMC.
- It was suggested that prior to each WCRG meeting, Council, in conjunction with community representatives, sends to the Chair agenda items detailing specific issues to be discussed at the meeting.
- *Refer to Actionable Items 3 and 4 listed below.*

#### **Item 4: WestConnex update report**

**It was determined** that the report be received and noted.

#### **Stage 1 update report**

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Concerns were raised over the continued poor pedestrian access throughout Haberfield as a result of WestConnex construction activities. Many pedestrian diversions are in place and many footpath surfaces are not safe, particularly for the elderly or disabled. Despite an inspection being carried out in June 2017 by community members and DP&E staff, the pedestrian safety audit that was requested at that time needs to be undertaken.
- An update was provided on Council's response to the issue of Department of Housing residents at Haberfield facing ongoing noise and dust impacts, and disruption of their lives from the project. Council staff confirmed the Group Manager Community Services and Culture was reviewing the situation.
- The issue of consistent low level vibration from these works was raised, and the EPA representative stated that the low level frequency threshold is defined as background noise plus 5db.
- The EPA representative was asked what the expected emissions from the Haberfield ventilation facility would be. It was suggested by a WCLF community member that 35kg a day of emissions are released from the existing M5 East ventilation facility at Turella.

*Refer to Actionable Items 5 to 7 listed below.*

#### **Stage 2 update report**

- Concerns were raised by community representatives over delays in noise wall installation along Campbell Street, and the fact that residents are unaware of materials to be used for their construction.
- It was reported by community representatives that non-contestable works are consistently being undertaken along Campbell Street and Campbell Road at St Peters. Works have been occurring 21 days straight, including three weekends in a row, which is too much for residents to endure. Council needs to address this with SMC.

- The DP&E representative advised that a community consultative agreement could be drafted to manage the timing of impacts. Project staff would survey residents to determine if they prefer works to be done intermittently, or for roads to be closed and works done as quickly as possible. Community representatives asked that this be discussed further at the August WCRG.
- Further concerns were raised about the ongoing issue of working hours being extended - for example works due for completion at 6pm on a given day are extended to 9pm without notice. The safety risk to workers from extended working hours is also an issue.
- Reference was made to ongoing poor management of pedestrian diversions and general access to Hutchinson Street during road closures. It was requested that this issue be discussed at the August 2017 WCRG meeting.
- A community member requested information on the process of removing trees for the project, and a copy of the arborist's report on the figs in Simpson Park, St Peters.
- Concerns continue to be raised about the two ventilation facilities proposed for the St Peters Interchange site. It was questioned whether prevailing winds have been taken into account in assessing air quality impacts from these facilities – in particular, the impact on St Peters Primary School and other sensitive land uses.
- Community representatives are concerned that RMS continues to advise that dispersion from ventilation facilities will have no impact of local air quality and will meet all air quality regulations. For evidence, RMS relies on the findings of: *TP08 Options for Treating Road Tunnel Emissions (July 2014)*. The objectivity of this document was questioned by community representatives as it is an RMS document.

*Refer to Actionable Item 8 to 11 listed below.*

### **Stage 3 update report**

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- Council staff gave an overview of the Stage 3 M4-M5 Link Concept Design submission, now available on Council's website. Council's position is expressed in three tiers, noting that all three are inter-related. The first-tier position is that Council remains strongly opposed to all parts of WestConnex, including Stage 3. The second-tier position is that Council reluctantly accepts that Stage 1 and 2 are approved and under construction and seeks a redesign of Stage 3 to reduce local traffic and amenity impacts and improve transport outcomes. Council staff explained the main elements of the alternative proposal. The third-tier position is that should Stage 3 proceed according to the Concept Design, a number of issues would need to be thoroughly assessed in the EIS to ensure impacts are minimised and positive outcomes achieved wherever possible.
- Concerns were raised about the Iron Cove Bridge becoming a traffic pinch-point, with multiple outbound lanes merging into two. This bridge is already identified as a traffic pinch point.
- It was noted that SMC's argument against filtration is that the cost of installing filtration systems is prohibitive. A community representative explained that Leighton had built a

road tunnel in Japan that removed 98% of particulates, and this project is reportedly cheaper per-kilometre than WestConnex. SMC should provide a financial analysis explaining why filtration is so expensive in Australia compared to Europe and Asia.

- The EPA representative was requested to evaluate and update the agency's information on air quality standards (if necessary) in light of what is accepted internationally.
- A community representative asked why Inner West Council (IWC) did not simply support the City of Sydney's alternative proposal for WestConnex. Council staff explained that IWC did support and adopt some of the City's elements, such as the relocation of the St Peters Interchange. However IWC felt it was not appropriate to support some of the City's elements – for example, IWC was concerned that the City's proposal to upgrade the A3 (Homebush to Beverly Hills) would simply shift traffic impacts to another council area.
- A community member asked if Council would be conducting another community survey on WestConnex. Council staff explained that in October 2016, Council conducted a Community Satisfaction Survey which identified 97% of residents were aware of the WestConnex project and the majority (57%) were not supportive of it. Council is undertaking a similar survey in 2017 and will again be asking a question regarding WestConnex.
- A community representative advised the meeting about the Clean Air and Urban Landscape (CAUL) Hub consortium funded by the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Programme. It is expected this organisation will influence air quality policy and will be able to undertake independent air quality monitoring.
- Community representatives raised their strong preference for the WCLF to continue after the Council elections.
- Community representatives thanked the Administrator for outstanding engagement with the community through the WCLF, and a general commitment and willingness to act on issues raised by WCLF members and wider community on WestConnex issues. It was suggested by a community representative that the Manager of WestConnex Unit be considered as Chair for future meetings.

*Refer to Actionable Items 12 to 14 listed below.*

### **General update report**

- The following motion was tabled at the meeting by a community representative (No WestConnex Annandale):

*“Notwithstanding any existing arrangements or agreements with the Inner West Council (IWC) and the Sydney Motorway Corporation (SMC) on the following issues the WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF) recommends that the IWC seeks a formal agreement with SMC to reimburse the IWC with the costs of carrying out repairs and reconstruction of existing and future road disrepair, and the provision of compensation for the physical damage to local resident cars, resident housing and associated local parks and community contexts. This agreement would take into account any existing estimates by the IWC of damage repair and include a 20% surcharge to cope with future exigencies given the unpredictable nature of the ongoing construction.”*



*Refer to Actionable Item 17 listed below.*

#### **Item 4: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) update**

A verbal update was given by EPA's Acting Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure on current odour and noise issues related to the project.

**It was determined** that the report be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- The second leachate facility at St Peters Interchange site continues to keep odour at non-offensive levels. EPA received complaints on 2 & 3 August 2017 - however the odour did not meet the definition outlined in the Environment Act. EPA staff regularly undertake unannounced odour monitoring surveys.
- The EPA representative confirmed that EPA requires multiple complaints in a day in order to take action. EPA recommends that residents make complaints by phone, as it can take up to two hours to obtain a response from an email.

*Refer to Actionable Item 15 listed below.*

#### **Item 5: Compliance update**

The DP&E's Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer provided a compliance update.

**It was determined** that the report be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion were:

- The DP&E representative advised that achieving compliance in relation to employee parking is difficult as the conditions of approval are not sufficiently specific. The conditions use terms such as "*consideration of*" and "*opportunities for*", so it is difficult (if not impossible) to determine if there has been a breach in areas where parking is not formally regulated.

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

The following actionable items were an outcome of discussions of the above items.

General actions

1. Council's Traffic & Transport Services Manager to undertake a parking survey in Haberfield to determine whether a resident parking scheme is warranted.

*Current situation: Council's Traffic & Transport Services Manager to provide an update on this matter to a future WCLF meeting.*

2. Council to write to SMC to request the implementation of worker vehicle project identification stickers to discourage parking in residential streets.

*Current situation: Council to write to SMC to raise this issue, and findings will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

3. Council to write to SMC to reiterate the terms of reference of the WCRG, specifically that technical experts from all stages attendance is required to ensure an effective and informative meeting.

*Current situation: In a letter dated 27 July 2017, the Administrator wrote to SMC's CEO to raise these issues. When a response is received it will be reported to the next WCLF meeting.*

4. Council to collate agenda items from WCLF members for the 22 August 2017 WCRG meeting and send these to the WCRG Chair.

*Current situation: Council staff have forwarded relevant items to the WCRG Chair.*

### **Stage 1 actions**

5. Council to request that DP&E, RMS and/or SMC undertakes a safety audit in relation to pedestrian diversions in Haberfield in consultation with WCLF members who are Haberfield residents.

*Current situation: Council to request that DP&E DP&E, RMS and/or SMC undertakes a pedestrian safety audit, with progress reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

6. Council staff to provide an update on Council's liaison with Department of Housing residents over WestConnex construction issues in Haberfield.

*Current situation: Council staff are currently investigating, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

7. EPA staff to arrange vibration monitoring at the Walker Avenue ventilation compound.

*Current situation: Council staff to request EPA to undertake vibration monitoring, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

### **Stage 2 actions**

8. Council to investigate when the Campbell Street noise walls will be installed and of what materials are they made of with New M5.

*Current situation: Council staff to request an update on noise walls from New M5 project team and report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

9. Council staff to include the issue of community consultative agreements in the 22 August 2017 WCRG meeting agenda.

*Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this item to the WCRG Chair for inclusion in the agenda.*

10. Council staff to include the issue of ongoing poor management of pedestrian diversions across Stage 1 and Stage 2 in the 22 August 2017 WCRG meeting agenda.

*Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this item to the WCRG Chair for inclusion in the agenda.*

11. Council staff to request a copy of the New M5 arborist's report and what this says about the figs in Simpson Park.



*Current situation: Council staff to request this information from the New M5 project team, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

**Stage 3 actions**

12. Council to write to SMC requesting information on the proposed steep gradients of the entry/exit tunnels planned for the Rozelle Rail Yards Interchange and how that may affect air emissions.

*Current situation: Council staff to write to SMC on this matter and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

13. Council staff to contact SMC and request to see a financial analysis on the cost of filtration and why it is so expensive to filter tunnels in Australia compared to Europe and of Asia.

*Current situation: Council to write to SMC on this matter and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

14. Council to request EPA to advise the process of reviewing and responding to complaints.

*Current situation: Council staff to request EPA to provide this information verbally to a future WCLF meeting.*

15. Council staff to forward to SMC the motion tabled at the WCLF meeting by the No WestConnex Annandale representative.

*Current situation: Motion to be forwarded to SMC by Council staff and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday 5 October 2017 10am-12:30pm**  
Level 2, 7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt