

**Draft Minutes of the  
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)  
held at Leichhardt Service Centre  
10:00am–12:30pm Thursday 2 February 2017**

The meeting commenced at 10:10am.

**In attendance:**

Paul Jeffery	Save Ashfield Park Committee, No WestConnex: Public Transport (NoW PT)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Resident
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Peter Boyle	Newtown Residents Against WestConnex (NRAW)
Jennifer Aaron	LAW
Rhea Liebmann	WestCONnex Action Group
Vince Crow	Haberfield Association
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Richard Archer	NoW PT
Richard Walsham	Former Marrickville Council WestConnex Advisory Committee
Richard Pearson	Administrator, Inner West Council (IWC)
John Warburton	Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement IWC
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit, IWC
Felix Liu	Engineer WestConnex Unit, IWC
Helen Tola	Manager Customer Service & Corporate Planning, IWC
Ken Welsh	Transport Planner, IWC
Rob Sherry	WestConnex 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:

Chris Woods	IWC Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC)
Catherine Gemmel	LAW
Christina Valentine	LAW
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Sarah Wood	WestProtects
Alana West	NoW PT

#### **Item 1 Adoption of Minutes of last meeting & update on actionable items**

**It was determined** that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 1 December 2016 be adopted; and
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- The Administrator advised that he met with the newly-appointed Minister for WestConnex and has sent the Minister a letter outlining key WestConnex issues for the Inner West Council Local Government Area. A formal meeting between the Administrator and Minister has been requested.
- John Warburton, Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement, advised that it was his first WCLF meeting, and he will be attending future meetings.

#### **Item 2, 3 & 4 Stage 1, Stage 2 & Stage 3 Update Report**

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

##### **Stage 1 Update Report**

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Concerns in relation to the impacts of road closures, detours and redirected bus services in the Haberfield area - mainly between Ramsay Street and Wattle Street and up to Walker Avenue - and the impacts this was having on residents and businesses in the area.
- Concerns about disability access to the temporary shuttle bus service, where only every second mini-bus was accessible and waiting periods were up to 40 minutes in off-peak periods. A request was made about Council requesting a "rapid response" to these issues from RMS, SMC and the NSW Government's Traffic Management Centre. It was suggested that SMC should have "people on the ground" who plan the routes to ensure they are able to ascertain the shuttle services as established on day one to see the types of passengers using such and to ensure shuttles are fit-for-purpose.

- Concerns were raised in relation to project vehicles using public roads (i.e. Cove Street, Martin Street, Alt Street and Bland Street) to park vehicles rather than using the old motor registry site. A request was made for Council to “aggressively” monitor what is occurring in relation to project vehicle parking.
- It appears there is poor planning on the part of SMC with parking, road closures etc., which results in SMC having to resolve issues via complaints. The community would like to be reassured that there is ‘continuous improvement’ in SMC’s planning and complaints handling processes.
- Concerns were raised about loss of land and vegetation as a result of WestConnex and a request was made that further information relating to the loss of trees on verges and private property be provided to WCLF by Council.
- The DP&E’s WestConnex Compliance Officer explained progress to date of SMC’s M4 East tree replacement program, which is mandated by a condition of consent.
- Concerns were raised about worker safety issues on all sites - e.g. dust and workers not wearing masks - and a request was made that Council contacts SafeWork NSW to raise worker safety issues.
- Concerns were raised regarding dusty work environments, particularly in relation to asbestos removal.
- It was noted that exploratory drilling for Stage 3 was being undertaken in Haberfield streets within close proximity to Stage 1 construction areas. Concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of Stage 1 works combined with Stage 3 exploratory drilling.
- Reference was made (to ensure all WCLF members were aware) to notification via letterbox drop of three new geotechnical drilling sites in the Rozelle area - Evans, Catherine, Belmore, Hancock and Amelia streets - due to commence on 8 February 2017 for a period of 3 weeks.
- Clarification was sought on investigative works being undertaken in Denistone Street and Easton Park, where there are a number of drilling sites. Concerns were raised about the seeming randomness of notification.
- The ‘G-loop’ was discussed briefly, and concerns were raised that more spoil truck movements were likely to occur from the Wattle Street compound up to the Parramatta Road compound. WCLF members called for Council to obtain more information about spoil truck movements and forward this to WCLF members.

## **Stage 2 Update Report**

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Concerns were raised regarding the impacts of WestConnex on Simpson Park and Campbell Street, particularly in relation to tree reports (notified by SMC in December 2016) showing the fig trees in Simpson Park being located directly on the footpath. Calls were made for Council to insist on a re-design of Campbell Street to ensure there was adequate room for the fig trees.

- A request was made for Council to erect banners at the end of Edgeware Road to cover the Bedwin Street Bridge and Camdenville Park, and across the footbridge at White Bay - stating 'WestConnex traffic chaos starts here'.
- Concerns were raised about what appeared to be compliance breaches, poor practices, improper asbestos removal, SMC's inadequate responses to complaints and lack of monitoring.
- Council's Manager WestConnex Unit advised that the Administrator had recently written to RMS requesting WestConnex traffic modelling data and was awaiting a reply. He also advised that Council is seeking legal advice on the legitimacy of the Stage 1 and 2 approvals in light of recent changes proposed as part of Stage 3.
- There was a request for further information on who is involved in preparing the *New M5 Urban Design Plan*. The Manager WestConnex Unit advised that he and other relevant staff had attended a meeting about this plan in December 2016 and relevant staff will be attending a further meeting in February 2017.
- Council's Engineer WestConnex Unit, provided an update in relation to pedestrian issues near St Peters Primary School at Campbell, St Peters and Church streets. It was noted that RMS has refused Council's request for a 40kph school zone on Campbell Street, but has planned a signalised crossing. He advised that the next step for Council was to join forces with the school and write to the Ministers for Roads and WestConnex on this matter. Note: Council has previously formally written to the Minister for WestConnex regarding this matter.

### **Stage 3 (M4-M5 Link) Update Report**

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Questions were raised in relation to the timing of the Stage 3 EIS and design plans. Council's Transport Planner advised that it was expected that the preliminary alignment would be included in the design plans, and these would be publicly exhibited in February 2017. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be publicly exhibited in May 2017.
- Concerns were raised in relation to inadequate levels of community consultation for earlier design plans for Stage 3.
- Questions were raised about whether the Iron Cove Link was part of the M4-M5 Link, or if it was a separate project.
- A question was asked about whether contracts had been signed for Stage 3 and whether Easton Park would be used for the Iron Cove Tunnel or West Harbour Tunnel. WCLF members asked Council to seek answers to these questions.
- A query was raised about the change in approach by the NSW Government to property acquisition after the Russell Review, and whether the new approach can be 'backdated' to give additional benefits to owners of properties already acquired for Stages 1 and 2. It was requested that Council call on the new Premier to give 'fair value' compensation to owners of acquired properties to enable them to buy a dwelling in their original area.

- A concern was raised about lack of transparency of SMC consultations with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney which led to an alteration of the Stage 3 tunnel alignment.
- Concerns were raised about portal emissions on the Parramatta Road site at Bland Street and Parramatta Road, and the design of the cover over the portal. WCLF members asked that Council seek clarification of where air quality monitoring is occurring and whether ventilation fans would be in operation 24 hours a day.
- Clarification sought about emergency vehicle access given the tunnel will be the longest in the world. Council's Transport Planner advised that WestConnex tunnels are twin tunnels with a set of links between them that can be used to transfer from one tunnel to another in the event of an emergency.

### **Item 5 - Compliance Update**

The DP&E's WestConnex Compliance Officer provided a verbal update on compliance matters. He assured WCLF members that there is a commitment by the DP&E and other NSW Government agencies to address WestConnex work safety and air quality issues.

Concerns were raised in relation to establishing zones for peripheral workers and that engines should be shut down noting an example where a large chipper was running and a worker was working with a chain saw.

### **Summary of Actionable Items**

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

#### **General Actions**

1. That the Administrator writes to the NSW Premier raising Council's and the community's issues with SMC's responses to complaints.

*Current status: The Administrator has raised these and other community issues in his February 2017 letter to the new Minister for WestConnex.*

2. Council to inform its Customer Service staff that all phone calls from the community in relation to WestConnex are forwarded to Council's WestConnex Unit.

*Current status: Completed*

3. Council to investigate the implications for affected property owners of the NSW Russell Review into the property acquisition process.

*Current status: Council staff are investigating the implications of the Russell Review and will present findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

4. Council to seek clarification of SMC's dilapidation studies process, including details of relevant contractors and whether independent advice can be sought.

*Current status: Council staff will seek information from SMC on the dilapidation process and will report this to a future WCLF meeting.*

5. Council to circulate a transcript of Andrew Mattes' 1 December 2016 presentation to WCLF on WestConnex air quality issues.

*Current status: Council staff are investigating the logistics of producing this transcript, and if feasible, it will be presented to a future WCLF meeting.*

6. Council to investigate the extent and nature of expertise being provided to the NSW Government on air quality issues for WestConnex.

*Current status: Council staff will investigate and report back on this matter to a future meeting as information comes to hand.*

7. LRAC WestConnex Weekly Update Report to be circulated to the WCLF members.

*Current status: WCLF members are advised that Weekly Updates are posted on Fridays (or the following Monday) on Council's WestConnex web page.*

8. Ensure relevant Council staff are subscribed to e-mail lists to receive notices of forthcoming WestConnex works.

*Current status: Council's WestConnex Unit staff are currently subscribed to all key WestConnex e-mail lists, but have made enquiries with SMC to ensure staff are subscribed to all lists.*

9. Provide an update on the forthcoming meeting of SMC's WestConnex Community Reference Group (CRG).

*Current status: The inaugural meeting of the WestConnex CRG was held at 6-8pm on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at Council's Petersham Service Centre. Information on the CRG is available on a dedicated page on SMC's website, and progress of the CRG will be reported to future WCLF meetings.*

### **Stage1 Actions**

10. Council to make representations to RMS, the NSW Traffic Management Centre, SMC and the Joint Venture to emphasise the importance of residents and road users being regularly updated on roadway, traffic and bus route changes prior to changes being implemented.

*Current status: Council staff will continue to make these representations in writing and at meetings where the opportunity arises, and progress will be reported to future WCLF meetings.*

11. Council to be involved in the planning and monitoring of road closures and to ensure pedestrian access is maintained for Stages 1 & 2 and future stages.

*Current status: Council staff, assisted by the DP&E's WestConnex Compliance Officer, are monitoring (and will continue to monitor) progress of road closures and pedestrian access for all stages of WestConnex. Updates on issues encountered will be provided through all of Council's communications, including the Weekly Update Report.*

12. Council to raise the community's issues with SMC in relation to temporary bus detours and traffic changes when attending M4 East Traffic & Transport Liaison Group meetings and to continue to monitor use of public roads for parking of WestConnex vehicles.

*Current status: Council staff continue to attend monthly meetings of the M4 East Traffic & Transport Liaison Group (TTLG). Note that issues raised at the 2 February 2017 WCLF meeting were raised by Council staff at the TTLG meeting held on the same day. Council staff will continue to monitor use of public roads for parking of WestConnex vehicles, drawing on the assistance of the DP&E Compliance Officer and Council's parking management staff where necessary.*

13. Council to seek information (as available) about land and tree loss attributable to WestConnex in the Inner West Council area and report this to WCLF members.

*Current status: Council has sought information about land and tree loss from SMC and will report this information to a future WCLF meeting.*

14. The DP&E's WestConnex Compliance Officer to contact SafeWork NSW and EPA in relation to issues and concerns about worker safety and air quality, and to request that inspectors be present on site, and to discuss ways in which there could be a more proactive approach to worker safety.

*Current status: The DP&E's WestConnex Compliance Officer has recently contacted WorkSafe NSW to discuss worker safety issues. A meeting is currently being arranged that will include relevant Council staff to discuss the issues raised at the WCLF meeting. EPA will also be contacted shortly to discuss air quality issues raised by the WCLF. Progress will be reported to future WCLF meetings.*

15. Council to liaise with the CFMEU, the Australia's Workers Union (AWU) and other key relevant unions to raise worker safety concerns.

*Current status: Relevant Council staff will liaise with relevant unions and will report progress to a future WCLF meeting.*

16. Council to seek clarification on what above-ground structures and tunnelling will be undertaken in the Inner West Council area.

*Current status: Council staff have sought clarification from SMC on these matters and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

17. Council to obtain further information on the Parramatta Road 'P-Loop' and report this to the WCLF.

*Current status: Council staff have sought this information from SMC and will report it to a future WCLF meeting.*

18. Council to seek clarification of where air quality monitoring is now being undertaken and whether the ventilation facility fans will be in operation 24 hours a day.

*Current status: Council staff have sought this information from SMC and will report it to a future WCLF meeting.*

## **Stage 2 Actions**

19. Council to request a re-design of Campbell Street at St Peters to ensure large fig trees in Simpson Park are not adversely affected, and to seek a commitment that these trees will not be excessively lopped.

*Current status: Council staff have raised these issues at recent New M5 project meetings. Council staff have reported that they are satisfied that the new alignment of Campbell Street will not adversely affect the Simpson Park fig trees. Staff also related*

*the community's concerns about excessive lopping of these trees, and have been assured by SMC that they will not be excessively lopped.*

20. Council to arrange for the erection of a banner across Bedwin Street at the bridge at Camdenville Park and the footbridge at White Bay which states 'WestConnex traffic chaos starts here'.

*Current status: This request is currently under consideration by relevant Council staff, and progress will be reported to future WCLF meetings.*

21. Council to confirm whether Campbell Road at St Peters will be a 50 km/hr or 60km/hr zone.

*Current status: Council have sought clarification of this matter with SMC and RMS, and will report its status to a future WCLF meeting.*

22. Council to obtain information about blasting to be carried out as part of the construction of emergency ramps and possible subsidence resulting from this.

*Current status: Council staff have sought information on this matter from SMC and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

23. Council to query response from former Minister for Roads about air quality, i.e. Point 3 *Redesign of tunnels to allow for filtered stacks* on Page 6 of the Minister's response (Page 33 of the WCLF meeting agenda).

*Current status: Council staff have sought information on this matter from SMC and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

### **Stage 3 Actions**

24. Council to seek a confirmation that Easton Park will not be used as part of the Iron Cove Link or Western Harbour Tunnel.

*Current status: Council staff have sought information on this matter from SMC and RMS and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

25. Council to seek an update on progress of the proposed cleanup of the Rozelle Rail Yards.

*Current status: Council staff have sought information on this matter from SMC and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

26. Council to seek clarification from SMC about the possibility of an additional works compound being proposed between Haberfield and Rozelle.

*Current status: Council staff have sought information on this matter from SMC and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.*

27. Council to circulate list of queries from Newtown Residents Against WestConnex (NRAW) about WestConnex Stage 3 to WCLF members and to forward queries to SMC for a response.

*Current status: Council staff have forwarded NRAW queries to SMC and NRAW list circulated with these minutes. Responses will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

28. Council to provide an update on the status of planning for Stage 3 construction dive site options.



*Current status: Updates on Stage 3 dive site options have been reported through Council's information channels, including the Weekly Update Report. Council is aware that SMC is actively considering a number of possible dive sites in the Leichhardt/Lilyfield area – but no site acceptable to Council had been identified. Council has informed SMC that at this stage its preferred option is for no dive site to be located in the densely populated Leichhardt/Lilyfield area, even though it is acknowledged that this may add to construction time and costs. It is anticipated that further information on dive-site options will be available when M4-M5 Link design plans are publicly exhibited in early 2017.*

**The Meeting concluded at 12.30pm**

**Next Meeting:           6.00pm - 8.30pm  
                                  Thursday 2 March 2017  
                                  Level 2 Leichhardt Service Centre**