

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at St Peters Council Deport
10:00am-12:30pm, Thursday 2 August 2018**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

In attendance:

Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Elizabeth Johnstone	WestProtects
Paul Jeffrey	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestCONnex Action Group (WAG)
Anne Picot	NoWPT & WAG
Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Peter Ross	St Peters Public School Parents & Citizens (P&C)
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit Inner West Council (IWC)
Felix Liu	Engineer WestConnex Unit IWC
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer WestConnex Unit IWC
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Kathleen Withers	Compliance Officer DP&E
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Jacinta Hanemann	Head of Infrastructure EPA

1. Welcome by Manager WestConnex Unit IWC

The Manager WestConnex Unit welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Michael Zarnado	Haberfield Resident
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Graeme McKay	Haberfield Resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 5 July 2018 meeting & update on actionable items

It was determined that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 5 July 2018 be adopted subject to a minor amendment: Stage 2 update report dot point 6 – amend: “Also, traffic controllers don’t do a proper job.” to read “Also, traffic controllers struggle to do a proper job.”
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Item 2: Impact of the WestConnex Project Inquiry

- On 21 June 2018, the NSW Legislative Council’s Upper House Public Accountability Committee announced it had commenced an inquiry into the impact of WestConnex. The inquiry will examine a range of issues including: the cost of the project; its governance structures; the compulsory acquisition of properties as part of the development; and the project’s relationship with other road projects in Sydney.
- Forum members expressed their support for the inquiry and felt that community complaints relate best to the costs associated with the project. They stressed that Council needs to make a strong representation on the failed business case and governance issues. Why was a road project approved? Why was there no community consultation in the development of the business case?
- It was suggested the issue of the costs to Council of the WestConnex Unit, the WCLF; traffic impacts from rat running and loss of Council assets be included in the submission.
- Council should also ask the inquiry questions, including questions about loss of publicly-accessible open space. The impact on local sporting groups should be mentioned.
- Council staff may be called to present the submission, along with councillors and the community. Community members will be able to recount their own experiences. It is expected Council would be represented by the Deputy General Manager Community and Engagement, supported by the Group Manager Strategic Planning and the Manager WestConnex Unit.
- A forum member mentioned that the Community Services and Culture team within Council has put together a good description of the Haberfield community as part of its consideration of the Stage 1 Legacy Project. This highlights the fact that the Stage 1 community engagement team does not understand the community within which they are operating.
- Climate change considerations should also be included in Council’s submission, including mention of the heat island effect of major roads.
- There are no guarantees the issues raised through the inquiry will be addressed by the NSW Government.
- Comments from advocacy groups and the general community should be included in the Council submission for the public record.
- The 28 August 2018 Council meeting is two days before the submission close date – there may be an opportunity to put the submission to this meeting for endorsement.
- A WCLF member recommended statements be obtained by residents affected by construction in the Haberfield-Ashfield and St Peters areas.

Item 3: WestConnex update report

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Stage 1 update report

Key points raised during the discussion were:

- Due to scheduling issues, upcoming traffic changes will be delayed. These changes include splitting of traffic westbound on Wattle Street towards Parramatta Road, and the opening of the new right-turn lane from Wattle Street eastbound to Ramsay Street southbound. The closure of the G-loop has also been delayed.
- There is still no communication from the project on what is happening to residual lands in Ashfield. A forum member believes NSW Treasury will have the final say as to whether RMS can release the Ashfield residual lands to the community. This would involve negotiations with the Buddhists, as their land has residual land on either side.

Stage 2 update report

- A forum member mentioned there will be a peer review process for Stage 3 for property dilapidation disputes, and expressed disappointment that there has been no such process for Stage 2.
- Council staff were asked by a WCLF member if a register was kept for properties that have suffered damage from WestConnex. Council staff's response was that there was no such register, and staff were only aware of property damage if a resident contacted them with this information. The project is not required to supply Council with this information.
- A forum member asked if Council had a map of Stage 2 truck routes. Staff confirmed that the routes should be within the Traffic Access and Management Plan (TAMP) which is publicly available on the WestConnex website. Any changes to these routes have to be approved by DP&E.
- Results from the air quality monitoring station at St Peters Primary School are available online via the air quality pages of the WestConnex website. They are however at least two months old before they appear and are difficult to understand. Community members want to know why there are spikes in the readings. Parents are keeping their children home from school because they are concerned. RMS did not advise EPA that the reports were now available online. Council, EPA and DP&E should not accept this response. RMS is not required to publish these readings until 12 months prior to operation.
- Forum members raised concerns about the Campbell Street carpark, wanting it to be deleted from the Urban Design & Landscape Plan (UDLP) and seeking an explanation of the notation about the car park shown in the UDLP.
- Council staff advised that Council had commenced discussions with RMS and SMC on the design of the fence to be located along boundary between the residual lands and residential properties along Campbell Street.
- *Refer to Action Items 1 - 2 below.*

Stage 3 update report

- It was reported that a WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG) special combined meeting was held on Thursday 12 July 2018. At this meeting, RMS WestConnex Project Director confirmed that a modification would soon be lodged for Stage 3. The newly-appointed Stage 3A joint venture Lendlease Engineering, Samsung

C&T Corporation and Bouygues Construction (LSB JV) is preparing the required documentation that will need to be reviewed by the RMS prior to submission to the DP&E in late August / early September 2018.

- It was reported that most questions asked at the abovementioned WCRG meeting were not answered, particularly questions about details of the modification and Haberfield construction options. It is not known if the community will have an opportunity to make submissions on the modification. The chosen hybrid option is new, using the Northcote Street site for tunnelling. Spoil routes and marshalling arrangements for this site have yet to be determined. It is not known if the Muir's sites will operate 24/7.
- There is speculation in the community that buildings on the Muirs site on the Ashfield side of Parramatta Road will be demolished.
- There are growing concerns over use of Stage 1 residual lands for Stage 3, such as the area between Wattle Street and Walker Avenue. This would delay implementation of the Stage 1 Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP). It is not known if a modification to Stage 1 would be required to allow this to occur.
- Council confirmed that construction management plans for Stage 3A are being sent to Council for comment. Forum members felt the community should be given an opportunity to comment on these plans. Although Council had requested that construction management plans be publicly exhibited, the Stage 3 CoA only requires comments be sought from Council, not the community.
- Recently a forum member undertook a walk around Haberfield with RMS's WestConnex Project Director and two staff from RMS's community engagement team. The walk commenced at the Muirs site on the corner of Bland Street, went past Haberfield Primary School and into Alt Street. The group met with residents who will be affected if Alt Street is temporary closed at Parramatta Road. One resident, who has a disabled daughter and relies on a bus to transport to her home, was concerned that closing Alt Street will affect bus access.
- A forum member raised concerns about the impact of shallow tunnelling depths, as shown in the Stage 3 community update June-July 2018. Tunnel depths will range from 65m under some properties to 20m near Easton Park, with compulsory subsurface acquisition undertaken by RMS.
- Council has not been advised of a construction start date for Stage 3A. The appointed joint venture is also the contractor for NorthConnex, and DP&E staff noted that there have been few complaints received by DP&E about NorthConnex. NorthConnex has a mobile engagement program, not just a single community venue. NorthConnex has been able to reach more of the community this way as it is easier for the community to engage with project staff.
- Concerns were expressed by forum members about tunnelling affecting water table levels, leading to subsidence and potentially cracking of buildings. Stage 3 will have a peer review panel to manage complaints, including disputes over property dilapidation. Information on Council's dilapidation reporting service is now on Council's website.
- It has been confirmed that the former Balmain Leagues Club site will be used as a mid-tunnel dive site for Stage 3. Yurulbin Park in Birchgrove will also be used as a construction site. This park is owned by the NSW Government, not Council.

Item 4: EPA update

EPA's Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure provided a verbal compliance report.

Stage 1 (M4 East)

- EPA has responded twice to reports of oil in Iron Cove Creek, but found there was no connection to WestConnex. Forum members called for the naturalisation of Iron Cove Creek to commence as soon as possible - not to wait for WestConnex to finish. This project is managed by Sydney Water.

Stage 2 (New M5)

- The contractor has sealed 300m of roads within the St Peters Interchange (SPI) site and has installed three tumble-wheel washes to reduce the incidence of mud tracking on roads.
- The National Environmental Protection Measures (NEPMs) are a special set of national objectives designed to assist in protecting or managing particular aspects of the environment. The concept of NEPMs is unique, and is provided for under the National Environment Protection Acts (NEPC Acts). NEPMs can be made about a variety of environmental matters, including ambient air quality. Allowance is made for air emission exceedances (spikes) due to causes such as bushfires. Air quality monitoring is not an exact science, and trend lines and clusters are of more of a concern than spikes.
- Regional air quality monitoring stations are not designed to be near pollution sources such as major roads.
- Fuel emissions standards are governed by the EPA's Smoky Vehicle Program.
- Forum members asked if Council could make Federal Ministers aware of their concerns about the air quality situation in Sydney's Inner West.
- Council staff advised that at the 24 July 2018 Council meeting, a motion was passed to investigate employing or commissioning air quality experts in the future, and to partner with universities and other stakeholders to apply for grant funding for air monitoring projects.
- It was highlighted by a forum member that the proposed Stage 3 ventilation facility at the corner of Campbell Street and the Princes Highway was less than 20 meters in height and is almost at the same level as the apartments at the end of Barwon Park Road. With prevailing easterly winds, pollution will go straight into these units. RMS has previously advised that air from the vent facilities is emitted at high velocity, dispersing particulates into the regional air-shed rather than affecting areas nearby.
- EPA staff advised they are intending to visit both St Peters and Haberfield primary schools to update the school communities about air pollution monitoring.

Item 5: DP&E compliance update

The DP&E's Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer provided a verbal compliance update. The main points were:

- DP&E recently held a forum to discuss community engagement for major transport infrastructure projects. The forum provided an opportunity for infrastructure contractors to exchange information with State agency staff.

- DP&E often engages with the community via stalls at events, e.g. every year at the Royal Easter Show.
- DP&E has funding approved to develop a community bus to allow for DP&E staff and the community to visit and discuss areas affected by infrastructure projects.
- Two penalty notices have been issued for breaches by Stage 1 trucks, both arising from residents' complaints. One of the penalty notices is being appealed by the haulage company, while the other goes to court in September 2018.
- As part of its current business plan, the DP&E has identified a number of strategic activities for the year, including a media campaign aimed at haulage contractors. A media release will be issued once the campaign commences. DP&E is currently engaging with the contractors on this.
- Following an inspection by environmental representatives on another infrastructure project, an opportunity was identified to improve pedestrian safety around road projects. This involves use of tactile transition tape, which is currently used by Transport for NSW.
- A Stage 3 CoA requires the proponent to establish an independent peer review panel to manage property dilapidation disputes.
- DP&E staff recently attended a local government enforcement forum, giving a presentation with EPA on 'being a good neighbour'.
- WCRG meetings are continuing, but meeting dates have still to be confirmed by RMS for the remainder of 2018.
- DP&E's post-approvals team leader will attend the 6 September 2018 WCLF meeting.
- A forum member raised an issue about response requirements between phone and written complaints, as there did not seem to be any formal response to phone complaints. DP&E staff can check if complaints are recorded, as they inspect the project's weekly list of complaints.

Item 6: Other Business

- Council staff advised that interviews have been completed for the WestConnex Community Organiser which is a 17.5 hours a week (half-time) position. Announcing the successful candidate is still a few weeks away. There was a very high standard of applications, and Council is looking forward to the successful candidate commencing.

Summary of actionable items

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

Stage 2 actions

1. Council to investigate the feasibility of establishing a register of properties damaged by WestConnex.
Current situation: Council to investigate this item and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
2. Council to contact the RMS to seek clarification about the notation about the Campbell Street carpark as shown on UDLP plans.

Current situation: Council staff have noted the annotation has been removed from WestConnex Appendix C Campbell Street Green Link Sub-plan page 29.

Stage 3 actions

3. Council to make representations to RMS to confirm whether any Stage 1 residual lands will be used in Haberfield.

Current situation: At a meeting with the RMS it was confirmed that no Stage 1 residual lands will be used for Stage 3.

4. Council to request the joint venture to make construction management plans available for public comment.

Current situation: The construction management plans for Stage 3a have been completed however Council will make the request to the appointed joint venture for Stage 3b that the community be given an opportunity to comment.

5. Council to contact DP&E and seek clarification on whether a modification is required for Stage 1 if Stage 3 uses land that is part of the Stage 1 UDLP.

Current situation: Council has sent this request to the DP&E and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

6. Council to investigate if the water retention basin site in King George Park is remaining - and if so, whether compensation has been paid to Council.

Current situation: Council investigations have established that the site is on crown land and therefore the issue of compensation is not applicable. RMS has indicated the current location is not changing.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 6 September 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm
Level 2, meeting rooms 2 & 3
Leichhardt Service Centre
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt