

Item No: C0617 Item 2
Subject: WESTCONNEX UPDATE REPORT: STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT; LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY; AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
File Ref: 16/6107/69443.17
Prepared By: Kendall Banfield - Manager WestConnex Unit
Authorised By: Simon Manoski - Group Manager Strategic Planning

SUMMARY

This report discusses three WestConnex items. The first is progress on Council's assessment of the Stage 3 (M4-M5 Link) Concept Design, the second is progress of Council's Local Area Traffic Improvement Strategy whilst the third is Council's support for two local WestConnex advocacy groups to host events in June and July 2017. It is recommended in this report that Council makes a modest financial and in-kind contribution toward both events as part of its continued support for community WestConnex advocacy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. receives and notes this report;
2. makes a financial and in-kind contribution to a total value of \$750 toward curating costs to the organisers of the *DisConnex: Reframing Resistance* art exhibition; and
3. makes a financial and in-kind contribution to a total value of \$300 to Newtown Residents Against WestConnex (NRAW) for a WestConnex protest event at Camperdown Park.

BACKGROUND

Item 1: Council's assessment of the Stage 3 Concept Design

Progress on this item was included in the 13 June 2017 WestConnex Update Report to Council's Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC). To assist the drafting of Council's submission on the WestConnex Stage 3 (M4-M5 Link) Concept Design, Council's WestConnex Unit undertook a competitive Request for Quote (RFQ) process and has selected mid-sized planning/engineering consultancy Beca to assist with the drafting of its submission.

Beca's assessment of the Concept Design (now underway) will integrate comments from specialist Council staff, as well as any issues that are raised with Council by the community. A similar process will be undertaken to select a consultant and prepare Council's submission when the EIS exhibition commences – expected at the end of August or early September 2017.

It is planned that an initial draft submission is reported to the 11 July 2017 LRAC meeting, a final draft submission reported to the 25 July 2017 Council meeting and the final submission lodged with Sydney Motorway Corporation (SMC) before the 4 August 2017 close date. Note that SMC had previously not set a close date, but has recently announced this 4 August close date.

A significant Stage 3 issue is the location of mid-tunnel construction dive sites and their impacts. For the dive-site in the Leichhardt/Lilyfield area, the Concept Design states that SMC is considering the 7 Darley Road site, but is also investigating the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) (western end) as an alternative. For some months, Council has been advocating the RRY site as a potential lower-impact alternative to Darley Road, and has written to SMC and the Minister for WestConnex several times on this matter. The Concept Design exhibition has not only raised content issues for Council, but also process issues. Council has written to the Minister for WestConnex about these issues.

Item 2: Council's Local Area Traffic Improvement Strategy

Progress on this item was included in the 13 June 2017 WestConnex Update Report to LRAC. It was reported then that it has taken some time for Council staff to identify a consultant with a traffic modeling capability suitable for this project. It was determined that one consultant has that capability – Veitch Lister Consulting (VLC). Accordingly Council had resolved in April 2017 to allow the General Manager (in accordance with relevant provisions of the Local Government Act) to negotiate directly with VLC provide a quote for use of its Zenith model to determine the traffic impact of WestConnex on local roads, based on RMS modeling data for main roads. VLC has provided a quote, which Council has accepted, and the modelling work is now underway.

It was previously reported that that VLC is involved in a modeling project with a firm related to WestConnex. To avoid any potential conflict-of-interest, Council and VLC agreed that Council will commission a third-party traffic consultant to peer review VLC's modeling results. The third-party consultant will also use the modeling results to shortlist local roads to be treated with Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) schemes. This consultant will also undertake the LATM scheme design work. Council staff issued a RFQ for the third-party consultant and have selected Beca as the preferred consultant. A meeting between VLC, Beca, Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) and Council staff was recently held to commence the project.

Consistent with Council's brief, the VLC quote proposes to model the following scenarios:

- base case 2011;
- base case 2021;
- project case 2021 – WestConnex Stages 1 & 2;
- project case 2031 – WestConnex Stages 1 & 2; and
- project case 2031 – WestConnex Stages 1, 2 & 3.

Also consistent with Council's brief, key outputs from the modeling would be volume capacity ratios for local roads, levels of service, average travel speeds and delay estimates. Further progress reports on this project will be provided to the July 2017 LRAC and Council meetings.

Item 3: Council support for community advocacy

This report relates to requests by two community advocates for a contribution toward WestConnex-related community events.

The first is a request is from a Haberfield resident and member of Council's WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF) for a \$500 contribution toward a multimedia art exhibition called *DisConnex: Reframing Resistance* which “.. seeks to explore the creative means being developed by artists resisting WestConnex destruction and to imagine a more equitable city and community.” The exhibition will be held in Council's Chrissie Cotter Gallery (CCG) at Camperdown from 27 June to 9 July 2017. Further details of the exhibition and costs are in a funding request letter from the Haberfield resident to Council's Administrator at **ATTACHMENT 1** and in Council's 9 June 2017 media release about this exhibition available on [Council's website](#).

Although in the letter \$3,000 has been requested, Council staff have been recently advised by e-mail that the request has been revised and is now \$500. The e-mail states: *"We have revised our funding request to cover expenses for printing and transportation of exhibit items, including salvaged items, estimated to be a total of \$500."* In addition to this financial contribution, it is recommended that an in-kind contribution also be made toward exhibition costs in the form of bottled wine leftover from a prior Council event, worth approximately \$250.

The second is a request from a Newtown resident and member of Newtown Residents Against WestConnex (NRAW) for a Council contribution toward a barbeque at the conclusion of an anti-WestConnex lantern procession. Although an NRAW representative has made this request, the event is being organised by coalition of local WestConnex advocacy groups. It is planned the procession would follow the route of the Stage 3 tunnel beneath Newtown and Camperdown and would conclude in Camperdown Park between 6:30pm and 7:30pm pm on Saturday 22 July 2017. The NRAW representative made this request at the 1 June 2017 WCLF meeting and it has been noted as an action item in the meeting minutes.

Council does not have an events team to facilitate this type of function, but it does offer use of a Council barbeque as part of its street party support program, which can be booked through [Council's website](#). Council will deliver and collect the barbeque free of charge. Under normal circumstances, the community group would need to purchase the food and supply labour, but in this case it is recommended that Council makes a modest financial contribution of \$300 toward food. All labour and any additional costs and other equipment (such as lighting) would need to be supplied by NRAW. NRAW would also need to obtain any necessary approvals from the Police for the lantern procession.

Council's parks managers have advised although Camperdown Park hosts daytime weekend sporting activities, these will have concluded before the NRAW evening event. The space adjacent to the rotunda within the park is available, but it would need to be booked by NRAW. As this is a not-for-profit event, there would be no charge for use of the space.

Due to the timing of these events, it is not appropriate that these requests for financial and in-kind support be considered through Council's Community Grants Program. It is recommended that that Council agree to these requests as part of its continued support for WestConnex-related community advocacy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The in-kind contributions totaling \$1,050 will be funded by existing budgets.

OTHER STAFF COMMENTS

This report includes input from relevant Council staff – in particular, Council's finance staff.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Nil. There is no need for separate consultation on this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Haberfield resident and WCLF member to Council's Administrator requesting Council assistance for WestConnex-related art exhibition

11th April 2017

To the Administrator
Inner West Council

A group of artists and residents who are community activists against WestConnex, have been successful in our application to hold a Multimedia exhibition at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery (CCG) Camperdown from 27 June to 9 July 2017.

The exhibition involves creative expression through multi media, projected videos, printed photo works, paintings, sculptural and constructed work. Our exhibition seeks to explore the creative means being developed by artists resisting WestConnex destruction and to imagine a more equitable city and community.

Some of the pieces planned for the exhibition have been integral to protests and demonstrations by affected residents. For example, residents have made bids for community heritage items salvaged during the demolition process. These represent new 'icons' that have become part of creative protests. This 'repurposing' of objects emphasises the creative means through which community activists are approaching the destruction of heritage.

While there are several well-established artists who are documenting the havoc that is created by WestConnex, others are residents who have found a medium for their resistance. The dialogue between artists and activists is producing a new language of creative expression that has its output in imaginative performances, some of which will feature in the exhibition.

The group is dedicating its time to stage this exhibition. It would greatly assist us if Inner West Council could support our exhibition by contributing to some of the associated costs. We are requesting the amount of \$3000. Please see the following table for a budget breakdown.

By allowing the community to come together and documenting the loss of houses and community through creative means, Inner West Council will be supporting this approach to reconciling with the loss and grief associated with the WestConnex destruction.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Yours sincerely

Cynthia Moore
On behalf of organising committee for CCG Exhibition June 2017

Member of Inner West Council WestConnex Community Liaison Forum

Exhibition sponsored by NowPT and Save Ashfield Park

BUDGET CCG Exhibition June 2017	
COSTS	IN KIND
Graphic design \$130	Promotional materials Distribution:
Flyers-printing and distribution \$350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via social media - Letterbox drops - Café, libraries and community centres
Materials for filmmaking \$250	Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filmmaking - Photography
Photographic printing \$200	Installation - labour
Materials for restoration of heritage items \$350	Salvaged heritage items restoration-labour
Opening night refreshments at \$10 x 150 Persons=\$1500	Drivers
Truck hire to transport the exhibit items to and from exhibition \$300	Curation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with artists, organising committees
Catalogue printing \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibition plan
Exhibition costs \$700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catalogue and essay
Audio visual equipment:	Organising committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TVs x 2 for 2 weeks hire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials to build base plates for salvaged items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion - Catering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Framing 	

