

**Draft Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at Leichhardt Service Centre**

10:00am-12:30pm, Friday 7 April 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)
Paul Jeffery	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoW PT)
Chris Kerle	NoW PT
Liz Johnstone	WestProtects
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Rhea Liebmann	WestCONex Action Group
Vincent Crow	Haberfield Association
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Resident
Lesley Treleaven	Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex (CRAW)
Richard Walsham	Former Marrickville Council WestConnex Advisory Committee member
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
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer, WestConnex Unit
Helen Tola	Manager Customer Service & Corporate Planning, IWC
Ken Welsh	Transport Planner, IWC
Stuart Clark	Acting Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Mike Sharpin	Acting Director Metropolitan, EPA
Rob Sherry	WestConnex Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Richard Parsons	Social Impact Assessment Specialist, 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:

Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Rochelle Porteous	RAW
Jo Alley	Save Ashfield Park Committee
Sarah Wood	WestProtects
Alana West	NoW PT
Richard Archer	NoW PT
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Chris Woods	IWC Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC) member

4. Items for consideration by WCLF**Item 1 - Minutes from 7 April 2017 meeting & update on actionable items**

It was determined that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 2 March 2017 be adopted; and
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- Actionable Item 5 of the meeting on 2 March 2017 (related to banners) was discussed and it was noted that the Camperdown area should be added as further location for a banner to be installed.
- Concerns were raised about Haberfield business operators stating they have been affected by a 30-40% drop in business turnover following road closures in the area.

Refer to Actionable Item 1 below.

Item 2 - Report back from State WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG)

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- The effectiveness of the WCRG was questioned – in particular, lack of representation from technical experts from the Joint Venture (JV).
- LAW representatives informed the meeting about lack of response to their letters to Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) about WestConnex Stage 3 dive-sites in December 2016.
- Attendees discussed the likelihood that design plans for WestConnex Stage 3 would be released before the next WCLF meeting in May 2017.

Refer to Actionable Item 2 below.

Item 3 - WestConnex Stages 1, 2, & 3 update report

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Stage 1 Update Report

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- There is a need to repair road surface damage in Alt Street and Walker Avenue at Haberfield from WestConnex activity. This damage has been exacerbated by recent rains.
- Out-of-hours works on service relocations associated with WestConnex continue to be a major source of disturbance to Haberfield residents.
- Concerns were raised about excessive bulk/height and insensitive design of the proposed Parramatta Road ventilation facility, as shown in the draft addendum to the M4 East Urban Design & Landscape Plan (UDLP), particularly as Haberfield is a heritage conservation area. A query was raised about whether the UDLP has been 'signed off', i.e. approved by the DP&E.
- Protection of trees (including their roots) is needed along footpaths surrounding the Yasmar Juvenile Training Facility during the construction phase, and a request was made that root mapping be undertaken.
- Clarification was sought about whether tunnelling for Stage 1 would be completed by October 2017.
- Concerns continue to be raised about the impacts from the 13-week closure of Ramsay Road, Haberfield.

Refer to Actionable Items 6 to 8 below.

Stage 2 update report

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- Ongoing impacts from construction trucks in the St Peters area are unacceptable.
- It was noted that the New M5 UDLP is on public exhibition until 30 April 2017.
- Concerns were raised about the UDLP public exhibition flyer only being forwarded to local residents, and the time available and general level of community engagement on the UDLP was not considered adequate.
- The meeting was advised that noise abatement specialists from the project have been recently door-knocking residents to assess homes close to construction areas for double glazing. A suggestion was made that SMC allow affected residents to 'opt out' rather than 'opt in' to receive treatments for noise abatement.
- It was reported to the meeting that residents near Steel Park, Marrickville and Campbell Street, St Peters had felt vibration from WestConnex tunnelling.

- Concerns were raised about widening of Euston Road near Sydney Park affecting residents of apartments, noting the widened road would be only 1.8m from apartment buildings. Concerns were raised about the ability of affected Euston Road residents to sell their homes given the impact of the road widening was now widely known. It was reported to the meeting that residents similarly affected by NorthConnex had found it difficult to sell their homes.

Refer to Actionable Items 3, 9 & 10 listed below.

Stage 3 update report

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- WCLF community representatives re-iterated their opposition to any Stage 3 construction portal in Haberfield and any mid-tunnel construction dive-sites in Leichhardt/Lilyfield and Annandale/Camperdown.
- The meeting was advised that community members have been unable to obtain further information on Stage 3 dive-sites, and had been advised by SMC that this kind of information would not be available until the design plans were released for public exhibition.
- WCLF community members stated they would like the project to be stopped immediately to allow probity issues to be investigated, and that this be expressed to the Premier of NSW at a meeting.
- The meeting was advised by a community representative about a current University of NSW urban design student exhibition called *Civilising WestConnex*, which recommends (among other things) installation of a metro rail line along the motorway and that Stage 3 not proceed. Requests were made for the YouTube video link about this exhibition to be circulated to WCLF members and for Council to consider partnering with the City of Sydney to host this exhibition in the City of Sydney or IWC area.
- Concerns were raised about the disastrous impacts of WestConnex on Haberfield residents and business operators, who cannot continue to tolerate the project's negative health, amenity and economic impacts.
- DP&E social impact assessment specialist Richard Parsons (in attendance at the meeting) explained his role to support management of social impacts of major projects across NSW. Richard works with the DP&E's policy team to develop and integrate social impact assessment methods before projects are designed. He advised that [draft social impact assessment guidelines](#) for mining, petroleum industries and extractive industries are available on the DP&E website. Once the draft guidelines are finalised, the DP&E will consider developing guidelines for other major project categories such as State Significant Infrastructure.
- The meeting was advised by a community representative that SMC staff have stated that no residential properties will be acquired in the Haberfield area for WestConnex Stage 3.

- Queries were raised about why the existing M4 East construction site bounded by Wattle Street, Parramatta Road and Northcote Street was not likely to be used as a construction portal for Stage 3.
- Concerns were raised about potential impacts from above-ground ramps for the Western Harbour Tunnel and from Stage 3 ventilation facilities at the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site.
- The meeting was advised by Council staff that planning for a Stage 3 active transport network was underway, which includes walking/cycling links in and around the RRY site.
- Comments were made about the high cost of compensation for acquisition of the Dan Murphy's site at Darley Road, Leichhardt.
- Concerns were raised that SMC has not been obliged to provide 3D models for key components of WestConnex. It was requested that Council ask SMC to provide models and shadow diagrams for Stage 3.
- In relation to the proposed Annandale/Camperdown dive-site, concerns were raised about: closure of one lane on Parramatta Road adjacent to the dive-site in peak hour and its associated impacts on commuters, buses, pedestrians and cyclists; noise and other impacts on residents of apartments near the dive-site and students at the Bridge Road School opposite the dive-site; and stabling of construction trucks within the RRY site for use at the dive-site.
- Comments were made about the appropriateness of existing parking zones and the need to step up parking enforcement in all areas affected by WestConnex construction activities.

Refer to Actionable Items 5 and 11 to 17 below.

Item 5 Compliance Update

Rob Sherry from the Department of Planning provided a compliance update.

Stuart Clark and Mike Sharpin from the EPA (present at the meeting) provided a compliance update.

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Key Points raised during the discussion included:

- Concerns were raised about night works in St Peters, lack of information about EPA's role and method of handling noise complaints and noise thresholds used to police breaches. EPA representatives advised that the guidelines for managing noise and other impacts from tunnel construction are likely to be reviewed, drawing from EPA's experience with tunnel projects. EPA representatives confirmed that LAeq, the measure for impact of continuous noise, was an average noise reading over a 15 minute period.
- Concerns were raised about the health impacts of noise and air pollution from WestConnex, including premature deaths from breathing fine particle air pollution, cancer, autism etc.

- WCLF community members requested that EPA attend future meetings to discuss noise and other issues relevant to their responsibilities.
- Concerns were raised about variations to EPA licenses, and a request was made for EPA to review licences for Stage 1 and Stage 2 in preparation for Stage 3.
- WCLF community members expressed a view that there was poor management of WestConnex construction compounds and asked whether monitoring activities at these sites were part of EPA's and DP&E's responsibilities.
- Concerns were raised about road closures and diversions having a seven-day-a-week impact on Haberfield residents and business operators until the end of May 2017, particularly in Bland, Ramsay and Wattle streets.
- Concerns were raised about current rat-running of traffic in Leichhardt along Darley Road and Frances, William, Herbert and Charles streets, and the excessive speed at which vehicles are travelling. A request was made for greater enforcement of traffic rules.

Refer to Actionable Items 18 to 20 below.

Summary of actionable items

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

General actions

1. Council to consider the feasibility of erecting a banner in Camperdown which states '*WestConnex traffic chaos starts here*'.
Current situation: Council staff are investigating possible banner locations in Camperdown and will report progress to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.
2. Council to write to SMC to express dissatisfaction with progress of the WCRG to date, and to request that a suitable number of technical staff from SMC and the JV attend future meetings.
Current situation: Administrator to forward this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
3. Council to request to SMC that residents located in the 'footprint' for noise or other mitigation treatments have the choice to 'opt out' rather than 'opt in'. This is intended to minimise the likelihood that residents will miss out on treatments because they are away or have missed a deadline.
Current situation: Council staff have forward this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.
4. Council to consider further enforcement of parking signage in areas where required and undertake 'blitzes' in hot spots across the entire project.

Current situation: Council staff will continue to liaise with the community on parking issues and brief Council's enforcement managers to ensure parking signage is appropriate and parking 'blitzes' are undertaken where appropriate.

5. Council to circulate link to YouTube video about the UNSW *Civilising WestConnex* exhibition to WCLF members and to consider partnering with the City of Sydney to host this exhibition in the City of Sydney or IWC area

Current situation: The YouTube video of Professor James Weirick's presentation on this exhibition is available [here](#). Council staff are currently investigating the possibility of hosting this exhibition in the City of Sydney or IWC area and will report progress to future meetings.

Stage 1 Actions

6. Seek confirmation as to whether the M4 East UDLP has been signed off.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

7. Request that root mapping and 'root isolation' be investigated for trees at the front of the Yasmar Training Facility at 185 Parramatta Road Haberfield.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

8. Seek clarification as to whether tunnelling for Stage 1 will be completed by October 2017.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

Stage 2 Actions

9. Council to write to SMC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) regarding the need for additional time and community consultation on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 UDLPs, which are currently being progressed. Council to stress that this is one area where SMC can constructively engage with residents and councils to for good public domain outcomes, and that the engagement process should not be rushed or tokenistic.

Current situation: Administrator has written to SMC, and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

10. Seek clarification as to whether an assessment of vibration impacts is part of the required operational review, to be undertaken 12 months after construction.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC, and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

Stage 3 Actions

11. Council to contact the City of Sydney to request that the two councils work together to find a suitable venue in the City of Sydney or Inner West Council areas to host the *Civilising WestConnex* exhibition.

Current situation: Council staff will forward this request to the City of Sydney and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

12. Council to consider developing a standard WestConnex 'rebuttal' message in all of its statements to the media.

Current situation: To date Council has expressed a consistent message of opposition to WestConnex, with a preference for public transport solutions to Sydney's traffic problems. Council has also stated that as two stages of the project are under construction, it will work with its residents and all stakeholders to ensure impacts are minimised and positive outcomes maximised. In doing so, Council has adopted standard messaging, such as "Protecting our Community from WestConnex". Council's communications staff will continue to develop and refine this messaging.

13. Seek clarification as to why the existing construction compound at Northcote Street, Haberfield will not be used as an end-portal for Stage 3 tunnelling.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this query in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

14. Council to assess feasibility of repurposing WestConnex tunnels for public transport (heavy or light rail) and determine whether this idea is feasible and has widespread support. In particular, determine if the tunnel alignments (as constructed) and future connections are viable for public transport.

Current situation: Council staff are investigating this matter, including discussing it with staff from the City of Sydney staff and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.

15. Council to request that the proponent provide a three-dimensional model for Stage 3.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

16. Council to raise with SMC the issue of stabling of trucks within the Rozelle Railyards and to request SMC to show the likely route of trucks to/from the Camperdown dive-site.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

17. Council to raise concerns about potential impacts of heavy vehicles on the Bridge Road School located on Parramatta Road opposite the Annandale/Camperdown dive-site.

Current situation: Council staff have forwarded this request in writing to SMC and the response will be reported to the May 2017 WCLF meeting.

Compliance actions

18. Council to write to the NSW Minister for the Environment and CEO of EPA regarding night-time noise from WestConnex construction and the need for EPA to adopt a stronger and more proactive role in dealing with noise issues.

Current situation: Administrator has written to the Minister for the Environment (cc EPA CEO) on these matters.

19. EPA to provide a further update on noise and air pollution following the concerns of WCLF members in relation to the impacts of these on community health.

Current situation: Council staff to forward this request in writing to EPA and the response will be reported to a future 2017 WCLF meeting.

20. Council to request that RMS and EPA representatives be invited to attend WCLF meetings in the future.

Current situation: RMS attends the WCRG meeting and EPA has attended two WCLF meetings. Council will continue to invite EPA regularly throughout 2017.

The Meeting concluded at 12.41pm

Next Meeting: **Thursday 4 May 2017, 10.00am-12.30pm**
Level 2, Leichhardt Service Centre
Wetherill Street, Leichhardt