

**Draft Minutes of the  
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)  
held at Ashfield Service Centre  
10:00am-12:30pm, Thursday 7 December 2017**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

**In attendance:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sharon Laura             | Haberfield Resident   |
| Paul Jeffery             | No WestConnex Public Transport, WestCONnex Action Group, Save Ashfield Park         |
| Anne Picot               | No WestConnex Public Transport, WestCONnex Action Group                             |
| Christine Allibone-White | WestProtects  |
| Jennifer Aaron           | Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)   |
| Peter Hehir              | Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)  |
| Sarah Jacobs             | Rozelle Public School Parents & Citizens (P&C)                                      |
| John Warburton           | Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement Inner West Council (IWC)              |
| David Birds              | Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC  |
| Kendall Banfield         | Manager WestConnex Unit IWC   |
| Ken Welsh                | Strategic Transport Planner IWC   |
| Robyn Meakins            | Administration Officer WestConnex Unit IWC  |
| Mike Sharpin             | Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)        |
| Rob Sherry               | Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) |

1. **Welcome by Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement IWC**  
The Deputy General Manager welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Felix Liu           | Engineer WestConnex Unit IWC  |
| Kathleen Withers    | Compliance Officer DP&E       |
| Elizabeth Johnstone | WestProtects                  |
| Cynthia Moore       | Haberfield resident           |
| Tom Zelinka         | No WestConnex Annandale       |
| Matthew Jenssen     | Rozelle Public School         |
| Lesley Treleaven    | Camperdown against WestConnex |

#### 4. Items for consideration by WCLF

##### **Item 1: Minutes from 2 November 2017 meeting & update on actionable items**

**It was determined that:**

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

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- A community WCLF member advised that the DP&E Secretary is able to make the decision to publicly exhibit the Preferred Infrastructure Report if it is determined this report is substantially different to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Council staff made contact by phone with the Clean Air and Urban Landscape Hub (CAUL) at the University of Wollongong to discuss opportunities for working collaboratively in 2018.
- A community WCLF member stated that residents in Guangzhou in China are now using a real time air quality app to be informed of pollution levels. Five cities in China are now looking to implement this. CAUL is able to provide comment on matters like this. The way WestConnex plans and manages air quality monitoring is not satisfactory.
- Council staff confirmed work has commenced on the WCLF action item to draft a submission to EPA on licencing issues arising from Stages 1 and 2.
- A community WCLF member requested an update on the parking survey that was undertaken in Haberfield. Streets around Haberfield Public School are still experiencing worker parking issues, and Sydney Motorway Corporation's (SMC's) response has not been satisfactory. There are concerns that more than 200 additional workers will be in the area from February 2018. Council staff reported that the initial results from the parking survey showed that parking pressures were in specific locations, not uniformly spread across Haberfield. Council will consult with residents in early 2018 as part of developing temporary resident parking schemes or other solutions to parking issues.
- On the issue of making complaints, a community WCLF member noted that the specific e-mail address for each of the project's stages should be used, not the general [info@westconnex.com.au](mailto:info@westconnex.com.au) e-mail address. The DP&E representative advised that all emails should be acknowledged within 24 hours.
- A community WCLF representative stated that the condition Camdenville Park when returned to Council is a concern of the St Peters community. Council should impose conditions on how it will be returned, such as the same condition as prior to occupation, or with improvements. Council response was that staff continue to meet with RMS and New M5 project staff on designs for the Camdenville Basin on the basis that there is a 2016 agreement that the basin area will be returned to Council with improvements as per the Camdenville Park masterplan. The community representative asked about requirements for the remediation of contaminated soils. Further meetings are planned for mid-December 2017 and early 2018 with a view to basin designs that are supported by both Council and the project.
- The issue of tree replacement was raised by a community representative, as there has been recent media attention over WestConnex not being bound by an original condition of approval requiring a minimum number of mature trees to be planted. Council staff explained that Council had in April 2017 discussed with RMS and M4 East project staff a

modification to allow for greater flexibility in the size of trees to be planted. Council's tree management staff had agreed that allowing this flexibility would result in improved regeneration of vegetation. The budget for landscaping remains the same, and the modification will also allow more plants to be purchased. Council made a submission supporting the modification and it was also supported by Strathfield and Canada Bay Councils.

- A community member raised a concern about the Stage 3 EIS not stating who would be paying for the Rozelle Interchange recreation area and other new green spaces created by the project. Council staff explained that this matter has not been resolved.
- A community member asked if Fire & Rescue NSW was consulted during DP&E's recent review and determination of a New M5 Modification to Conditions E3, E14 and E44. The DP&E representative responded by confirming that there was engagement with multiple agencies on this matter, including Fire & Rescue. The community representative saw a need for Council to monitor and track modifications and to determine what the implications are for all WestConnex projects. Council staff agreed this was needed, and will track and respond to modifications from now on.
- A community representative suggested to the DP&E representative that a real-time Facebook complaints page be set up as a way for the community to lodge complaints. The DP&E representative advised that this idea had been put to the DP&E's communications team on previous occasions, but it has not been actioned. It is important to acknowledge that WestConnex is one of many infrastructure projects currently underway in NSW, and the DP&E is of the view that its existing complaints processes are sufficient.
- A WCLF community member requested that her opposition to the relocation of WCLF meetings from Leichhardt to Ashfield be noted in the minutes. The main concern is that Ashfield is a less convenient location than Leichhardt and it will result in reduced attendance at meetings.
- Council staff explained that the decision to relocate the meeting was due mainly to the prior meeting room at Leichhardt not being available for these kinds of meetings. It was also explained that the Ashfield venue was suitable for WCLF meetings, most of the Council staff attending the meeting were located at Ashfield, and for community members from the Haberfield area, the Ashfield venue was more convenient. Other community members stated they had no concerns with the relocation to Ashfield – their main concern is that WCLF meetings continue. A general point was also made that the need to travel further to Council meetings and events was a generic issue resulting from the amalgamation and the formation of a larger council area.
- Some community members suggested an invitation be extended to affected local schools to attend WCLF meetings in 2018. It was noted that attendance at WCLF meetings has always been open, so there were no issues with school representatives attending.
- *Refer to Actionable Items 1 – 8 listed below.*

## **Item 2: Corflute signs**

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

Council's WestConnex Unit Manager gave an update on Council's resolution about corflute signs opposing WestConnex. The main points from the discussion are as follows:

- Community members expressed their dislike of the initial design and disappointment that there was no consultation with advocacy groups on the design. Council must engage with the community as required by the Council resolution.
- A community representative suggested that schools take part in a competition to design the corflute signs, and the Mayor and local members be involved in this process. It is important to get the community working together and send a message that the entire Inner West area is against this project. Whilst the idea was supported by other WCLF members, timing was also a concern. If the schools were to be involved, the designs could not be finalised until late February or March 2018.
- A suggestion was made by a community representative to produce 1,000 corflutes as per the Council resolution, and then apply to Council for another 1,000 in 2018 and possibly undertake community engagement through a competition at that stage.
- It was suggested that the text on the sign be: “#WestConnex Won’t Work/Inner West Opposes it/IWC logo” in red and white colours. It would be ideal if this could be used as a template that other councils could adopt. Use of # implies use of social media.
- Once the design has been prepared by Council, it should be reviewed by WCLF members.
- *Refer to Actionable Item 9 listed below.*

### **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 included:

- A community representative explained that M4 East complaints are not being resolved, and the M4 East project team will not accept issues being raised by some residents. The community is often made to feel that the M4 East team is doing them favours by providing ‘over-and-above’ what they should be providing. They are making residents sign confidentiality agreements so neighbours will not find out what is being offered. If residents speak out, they are told that they will not be entitled to any benefits. These are all unacceptable practices. Community members need to know their rights when it comes to the project.
- It was suggested that a small DL-sized community flyer be produced by Council with details on how to make a complaint. It should include other information that could assist WCLF members in their advocacy work. The flyers should be distributed to the community, and people could put it on their fridge or have it by the phone so they immediately know who to contact to make a complaint, including the details for DP&E and EPA. For Haberfield, it would be beneficial if the flyer was also produced in Mandarin and Italian languages.
- Night noise continues to be a major issue affecting local communities. At times up to 15 different operational construction sites have been counted along Parramatta Road, Bland Street, Wattle Street and Dobroyd Parade. Some of these sites are only 200m apart, and residents have been given as little as four hours’ notice of works. There is clearly an overlap of noise impacts, but the project pretends the impacts from the different sites are not connected. There is a need to find out why night works need to be undertaken. The Traffic Management Centre seems to only issue road occupancy licences at night. Council staff pointed out that Council has recently written to the Premier, Minister for

Planning and Minister for WestConnex on the issue of night noise as a result of a notice of motion that was considered by Council at its 21 November 2017 meeting. Council will continue to pursue improved outcomes for the community on this issue.

- A community member stated that a pedestrian had recently been killed by a NorthConnex truck, although it was stated in the media the truck driver was not at fault. It still raises serious safety concerns around these kinds of construction projects. At the entry to the main construction site near the intersection of Wattle Street and Parramatta Road at Haberfield, there are no treatments to slow the trucks at the down as they enter. There are community concerns over pedestrian safety issues at this intersection and others throughout Haberfield. This is made worse by forthcoming traffic switches, which means that traffic flows are changing.
- A community member expressed concern about residents between Ramsay and Waratah Streets not having noise walls constructed near them according to the *M4 East UDLP Updated Appendix F: Noise Barrier Location and Design Sub-plan*. Some form of noise abatement for these residents needs to be fast-tracked, as residents are experiencing excessive construction noise.
- A community member asked if Council staff could request details of what works will be happening over the Christmas / New Year period.
- *Refer to Actionable Items 10 - 11 listed below.*

### **Stage 2 update report**

- A community member reported complaints about tunnelling from residents around Yelverton Street in Sydenham. Council has been advised that tunnelling will be continuing 24/7 over the Christmas holiday period, although most surface works will be closing down for the Christmas period. Residents should be given a reprieve from all works, including tunnelling.
- The St Peters community are against the proposed Campbell Street carpark. It adds complexity to the road and doesn't appear to serve any real purpose. In a May 2017 submission on the New M5 UDLP, Council stated it understood there were mixed views in the community about the car park and could see there were valid arguments for and against it - but on balance didn't support the carpark. Council also argued for a 40kph school zone and 50kph general speed limit on Campbell Street, as well as allowance for kerbside parking and removal of the proposed median to allow for local traffic movements. This was part of an overall argument for a slower, safer and 'calmer' traffic environment. In the latest version of the New M5 UDLP, it is unclear what is meant by the label "*relocation of St Peters Public School carpark subject to separate statutory assessment*".
- *Refer to Actionable Item 12.*

### **Stage 3 update report**

- A community member pointed out that structural damage is more likely to occur to properties where tunnelling less than 35 meters beneath them, requesting that Council submits an addendum to its submission on the Stage 3 EIS requesting the following conditions be placed on tunnelling the following conditions be placed on: all tunnels should be relocated to follow existing road and rail reservations; reroute any tunnels that are beneath public or open space; if the previous requirement can't be achieved, then reroute tunnels under commercial properties; and tunnels should only be under

residential properties as a last resort. A community member was of the view that there be no tunnelling at all under residential properties.

- Community members are concerned that there will be substantial changes to Stage 3 EIS designs post-approval, and appointed contractors will decide the final locations of tunnels without consultation.
- Community members asked if Council would be responding to the Submissions Report when it is released. Council expects to have the opportunity to prepare a response, and will do so.
- A community member pointed out that the legends on the maps used at the traffic modelling drop-in session needed to be updated. Council staff pointed out this has already been done.
- Concerns were raised by a community member about the effects of rat-runs around Lilyfield Road. Council staff pointed out that consultation was currently being undertaken by Council on the proposed Lilyfield Road cycleway by the Traffic Services team (not Strategic Planning). The cycleway should act to 'calm' traffic and may reduce rat-running.
- It was noted by a community member that there seems to be an increase in heavy vehicles using Hubert, William and other local roads in the Leichhardt area between 12am-2am. Buses are not allowed on William and Hubert Street but they do use these streets. Residents have contacted the Leichhardt bus depot to report this.
- Community members noted that Council's recent public meetings about Stage 3 construction impacts have been well attended, but the time allowed for questions and comments should be extended to one hour. The time taken for the Council presentation could be reduced, provided the presentation is available on Council's website soon after the meeting. Maps in Council's presentation need to be more specific, with intersections identified by name. It is disappointing that time is taken up with "political agendas" as opposed to genuine concerns of local residents about impacts. Council staff stated that Council has no control over the comments made, but every endeavour is made to ensure the meetings are as effective as possible.
- A community member pointed out that RMS continues to state that WestConnex tunnel designs are world's best practice and that filtration is ineffective and too expensive. These are all untrue, and this should be pointed out in Council's presentations to the public meetings.
- A community member suggested that the Preferred Infrastructure Report would likely be released on 11 December 2017, and that Options A and B are not suitable for Haberfield. Council needs to contact DP&E and RMS to find out when the Preferred Infrastructure Report will be released. Council should also request that it be released publicly for comment as this is in the public interest. If this is not possible, the DP&E should be asked to give the reasons why it is not possible. Council should investigate this further and use GIPA provisions to obtain this report if the response from DP&E is not satisfactory.
- Community members advised that the Supreme Court challenge to RMS's Lilyfield acquisitions is now in mediation. RMS will take possession of the Muirs site at Haberfield in May 2018 and it is expected works on the site will commence soon after.
- A community representative stated that LAW had written to the Minister for WestConnex requesting a meeting, and the Minister had instructed the Stage 3 Project Director to meet with LAW. The Project Director had however cancelled an arranged meeting. LAW

representatives want to know if the alternative option of using a hopper to load spoil is still being considered for the Darley Road site.

*Refer to Actionable Items 13 - 15 listed below.*

#### **Item 4: EPA update**

Due to meeting time constraints, a verbal update was unable to be given by EPA's Operations Manager Metropolitan Infrastructure on issues related to the project. However, input was provided by the EPA representative during the course of the meeting as matters were raised.

#### **Item 5: DP&E compliance update**

Due to meeting time constraints, a verbal update was unable to be given by the DP&E WestConnex Compliance Officer on issues related to the project. However, input was provided by the DP&E representative during the course of the meeting as matters were raised.

#### **Item 6: Other Business**

- A Rozelle resident attended the meeting briefly to explain that she has organised a WestConnex protest event on Victoria Road, Rozelle called "*Kids' Call to Action Anti-WestConnex*". The resident explained her motive to give children a voice in the protest and the need to take action to stop this "monstrous project". The event is to take place on Tuesday 12 December 2017.
- The resident stated that the feeling from the general public (i.e. those not involved in fighting WestConnex) is that it can't be stopped. It *can* be stopped.

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

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

#### **General actions**

1. Council to continue with the residential parking review in Haberfield and provide an update at the next WCLF meeting in February 2018.  
*Current situation: Council is continuing with the Haberfield parking review and will provide an update at the February 2018 WCLF meeting.*
2. Council to confirm with relevant staff what was agreed to with the hand-back of Camdenville Basin to Council by New M5. Need to confirm that there will be remediation of any contamination on that site.  
*Current situation: Council staff to provide an update on this matter to the February 2018 WCLF meeting.*
3. Council to review M4 East Modification SSI 6307 MOD 3 in relation to pot size and advise if this applies to Stage 2 or only Stage 1.  
*Current situation: This modification only relates to M4 East, a separate modification would be required to amend the conditions of the New M5; this was confirmed by DP&E.*

4. Council to develop a tracking strategy to monitor and review all modifications across all Stages of WestConnex.  
*Current situation: Council staff have developed a spreadsheet to track and record modifications.*
5. Council to write to DP&E and EPA to request that members of their post-approval teams attend a WCLF meeting.  
*Current situation: Council has written to the DP&E and EPA on this matter and the responses will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*
6. Council to write to DP&E to request the Department consider creating a Facebook page where the community can lodge real-time complaints.  
*Current situation: Council has written to the DP&E on this matter and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*
7. Council to contact local schools affected by WestConnex to extend an invitation for representatives of the schools to attend WCLF meetings in 2018.  
*Current situation: Council to write to the schools and report responses to a future WCLF meeting.*
8. Council to consult with WCLF members on the revised corflute design.  
*Current situation: Council staff consulted with WCLF members at the December 2017 WCLF meeting. A design was developed, it has been printed and is currently available for collection at the Ashfield Service Centre from the WestConnex Unit.*
9. Council to write to relevant Ministers regarding night-time construction noise impacts, including the Minister responsible for the Traffic Management Centre.  
*Current situation: Council has written to the Minister for Transport & Infrastructure, Minister for Roads, Maritime & Freight and Minister for WestConnex on this matter and responses will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

### **Stage 1 actions**

10. Council to request a meeting with RMS staff and key residents regarding safety issues around the intersection of Wattle Street and Parramatta Road, Ramsay and Waratah Streets and the G-loop at Haberfield.  
*Current situation: Council has requested this meeting and will report progress to a future WCLF meeting.*
11. Council to contact SMC to request a full breakdown of what works are occurring over the Christmas / New Year holiday period.  
*Current situation: Council contacted SMC on this matter and the response was reported through Council's 22 December 2017 WestConnex Weekly Update Report.*

### **Stage 2 actions**

12. Council to contact SMC to ask for an explanation of what is proposed for the Campbell Street carpark - in particular, the meaning of the New M5 UDLP caption "*relocation of St Peters Public Carpark subject to separate statutory assessment*".



*Current situation. Council staff have contacted SMC on this matter, and will report response to a future WCLF meeting.*

**Stage 3 actions**

13. Council to submit an addendum to its Stage 3 EIS submission pointing out that structural damage is more likely to occur to properties where tunnelling is less than 35 metres beneath them, therefore WestConnex to advocate that no tunnels less than 35 meters in depth be located beneath residential areas.

*Current situation: Council has written to the Director Transport Assessments at the DP&E on this matter and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

14. Council to write to the Secretary of the DP&E and RMS to request the Preferred Instructure Report be made public immediately or prior to any approval, even if the document is in draft form. If the response is not satisfactory, Council to obtain this report using GIPA provisions.

*Current situation: Council has written to the Secretary of DP&E and the Chief Executive of RMS on this matter and the responses will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.*

15. Council to contact the Stage 3 Project Director to seek clarification on whether the hopper option for spoil removal is still being considered as an alternative to using the Darley Road site.

*Current situation: SMC have responded that as the M4-M5 Link tender evaluation is currently underway, and until a preferred contractor has been appointed they are unable to discuss options other than what has been assessed in the EIS.*

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday 1 February 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm**  
Level 6 Ashfield Council Chambers, Ashfield Service Centre  
260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield