

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00am

In attendance:

Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Sharon Laura	Haberfield resident
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Anne Picot	WestCONnex Action Group
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
LJ Loch	WestProtects
John Warburton	Deputy General Manager Community & Engagement Inner West Council (IWC)
Ken Welsh	Transport Planner IWC
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit IWC
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer WestConnex Unit IWC
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

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
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Kathleen Withers	Compliance Officer DP&E
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield resident
Vincent Crow	The Haberfield Association
Lesley Treleaven	Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex (CRAW)
Paul Jeffery	No WestConnex Public Transport
Rhea Liebmann	WestCONex Action Group

4. Items for consideration by WCLF**Item 1: Minutes from 3 August 2017 meeting & update on actionable items**

It was determined that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 3 August 2017 be adopted subject to a minor amendment:

Item 4, dot point 1 – amend: *“however odour was not considered to be offensive”* to read *“however odour did not meet the definition of ‘offensive odour’ as defined by the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997”*.

2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- The EPA representative stated that an \$8,000 fine was issued to the New M5 Joint Venture (JV) in March 2017 in relation to odour, and investigations are continuing into odour complaints received from April to June 2017.
- The EPA representative confirmed that the licensee is given a two-hour period to respond to the EPA in relation to noise complaints.
- WCLF members continue to be concerned about the impact on residents of work priorities set by WestConnex. For example, working hours for the ventilation facility site in Haberfield appear to be extended to ensure these works are completed in as short a time frame as possible. Council’s Manager WestConnex unit stated that this issue was raised in a recent letter from the Administrator to DP&E Secretary about cumulative construction impacts.
- WCLF members felt challenged in responding to the EIS on the subject of filtration of emissions when the document does not provide any financial analysis on this matter. This information should be included, particularly as various filtration options have been implemented in other countries.

Refer to Actionable Item 1 listed below.

Item 2: Report back on the State WestConnex Community Reference Group (WCRG) meeting held on 22 August 2017

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- It was noted that at the WCRG meeting the Stage 1 Project Director had apologised for comments made at a WCRG meeting in early 2017 that were considered by some to be offensive.
- The Stage 3 Project Director gave an outline of the Stage 3 EIS at the WCRG meeting. At the meeting, Council’s Manager WestConnex Unit had asked how SMC could have assessed all Concept Design submissions and edited the EIS accordingly within the nine

working days between close of exhibition of the former document and the start of exhibition of the latter. The Stage 3 Director's response was that SMC had worked 24/7 during that period to assess the submissions and edit the EIS. This was met with some scepticism by Council and community representatives at the meeting.

- WCRG members continue to raise the issue of the refusal by the Stage 2 Project Director to attend WCRG meetings, or allow any Stage 2 staff to attend. Council's Manager WestConnex Unit advised that the Administrator had recently written to the CEO of SMC raising this concern, pointing out that non-attendance by the Stage 2 Director was a breach of the WCRG's terms of reference.
- Concerns were raised about the date of the next WCRG meeting being set later in the year so that SMC would not need to deal with queries about the Stage 3 EIS.
- All agreed the Chair's management of the August WCRG meeting represented an improvement on management of prior meetings.

Refer to Actionable Item 2 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:

- Haberfield residents highlighted the fact that Stage 1 tunnelling is nearing completion and there has yet to be any suitable arrangement for truck marshalling for this project. Haberfield residents felt this situation should not be allowed to occur for Stage 3. Residents called on Council to issue a media release or similar statement on this matter.
- Reference was made to jet fans that have recently been installed at the Brescia site (next to the Stage 1 Parramatta Road worksite) without implementation of any noise blanket or other noise buffering. This has created a major noise impact on local residents. Noise is loudest in the upper-levels of the multi-storey residential areas nearby, and vibration from the fan can be felt on the Bland Street Bridge.
- The issue of the ongoing noise, odour (from exhaust fumes) and vibration from the generator at the corner on Waratah Street and Dobroyd Parade continues. These works are said to be completed at the end of September 2017.
- The Walker Avenue Neighbourhood Group (WANG) reportedly had a meeting with SMC on 30 August 2017 to discuss the future of the three houses 18, 20 and 22 Walker Avenue (adjacent to the work site) that had been acquired by RMS for the project. The Legacy Project concept plan proposed that one of these houses be sold and the other two be used for community purposes. They are currently used as construction offices, but it is proposed that backyards would be reinstated to these properties and the noise wall erected behind them. Queries were raised about the proportion of land around these houses that will be devoted to community open space.

- A significant portion of Reg Coady Reserve is occupied by project construction work, and it is noted that the wire fencing around construction sites in the reserve has been moved. It would appear that this movement has resulted in more of the reserve is being used for construction. It was requested that Council investigate this matter.
- Concerns were raised over the limited distribution of a letter advising local residents of the proposed erection of three signs (including a 7m tall Variable Message Sign, or VMS) along Waratah Street in Haberfield. Waratah Street is a local road with currently low levels of traffic, but it appears it will become a feeder road into Haberfield Interchange tunnels. It was highlighted that SMC has not contacted key stakeholder groups on this matter, such as Dobroyd Public School and the Haberfield Association. Council will be making a submission.

Refer to Actionable Items 3 to 6 listed below.

Stage 2 update report

- It was reported by a community representative that high levels of noise and night works continue to disturb residents in St Peters. Noise walls have been erected, and although they are compliant with conditions of approval, they do not provide sufficient noise buffering for the community. Utilities works seem to continue without consideration of time of day, and they often finish at around 8pm.
- It was reported by a community representative that closure of Florence Street, St Peters and the resulting traffic changes make moving around these streets difficult for residents, particularly on weekends.
- It was reported by a Council representative that Council has developed a draft of the Sydenham Parking Strategy (which applies to the St Peters area), and this will be reported to the October 2017 Local Traffic Committee meeting for endorsement. After that, it will be reported to Council for adoption.
- A community member thanked Council for stopping the Stage 3 geotechnical investigation works that were planned for Simpson Park in August 2017. A Council representative explained that Council has lodged an appeal with RMS under the Roads Act to postpone these works to allow for a site meeting between local residents and Council and project staff. The meeting was being organised, but recently SMC stated that it had deferred these works until a future time. Council has informed SMC that if/when these works are planned, a site meeting be held prior to works commencing.
- Queries were raised by a community member about the status and timing of Council's Camdenville Park Masterplan, given the project construction site adjacent to the Camdenville Basin is temporary. A Council representative explained that Council still intends to implement the masterplan even though this has been delayed by WestConnex Stage 2.
- Queries were raised by a community member about management of flooding along Campbell Street, particularly at its intersection with May Street. Careful management is needed, as flooding is a common occurrence in this area. The community member is aware that the Campbell Street designs include provision for stormwater retention tanks.

- A Council representative advised that information on these Camdenville Park Masterplan and flooding items would be provided, and it may be appropriate to invite relevant staff to a future meeting to explain the status of these items.

Refer to Actionable Item 7 listed below.

Stage 3 update report

- A community member requested that print copies of Council's Stage 3 Concept Design submission be made available to the public, and that these be placed next to the EIS documents in Council's service centres and libraries. This will assist residents by informing them of Council's key issues in relation to the Stage 3 EIS.
- A community member requested that Council's submission on the EIS call for in-tunnel filtration as opposed to filtering within ventilation stacks. If tunnels are built with in-tunnel filtration, there is no need for filtering in the stacks, which would decrease construction and operational costs. A request was made for Council staff to discuss with bio-scientist Mark Curran from Residents Against Polluting Stacks (RAPS) the issue of in-tunnel ventilation.
- It was suggested by a community representative that Council staff contact the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub. This organisation has the ability to carry out data modelling and is questioning the current methodology for measuring air quality in relation to motorways. The lead team for this organisation is based at the University of Wollongong.
- Concerns were raised by a community representative over the WestConnex tunnel ventilation designs, as the system would require substantial energy to operate. Council should also investigate the ventilation system used for the Cross City Tunnel. A concern was also raised that there appears to be no Plan-B in the Stage 3 EIS should the WestConnex ventilation system fail.
- A Council representative explained plans for the public meeting on the Stage 3 EIS. Local Members, the Mayor and Council's consultants Beca Australia would be speaking alongside key Council staff. Advocacy groups that attend the WCLF would be invited to be involved. Representatives from these groups would each have two minutes to speak, and would be able to sit at tables at the rear of the venue so that attendees can engage with them before and after formalities.
- The public meeting was originally planned for 10 October to avoid the school holiday period, but community representatives felt this was too late in the exhibition period. Council staff agreed, and the meeting is now scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 4 October 2017, even though this is within school holidays. The venue is the Centurion Lounge at Leichhardt Oval.
- Community representatives suggested that documents and messages be provided at the meeting to assist residents to make a submission, and what should be included. It was also suggested that a pro-forma submission be available for residents to sign if they were not planning on making their own submission.
- A community representative asked if WestConnex banners could be reinstalled now that the Council elections have taken place.

- A No WestConnex Public Transport representative requested assistance from Council in promoting its fundraising screening of the movie *Citizen Jane – Battle for the City*, which is to be screened from 6pm to 8:30pm on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at the Palace Cinema Complex, Norton Street Leichhardt.
- A community representative suggested that WestConnex activists refrain from protesting at forthcoming SMC Community Information Sessions, as this can be disruptive for attendees. SMC has previously ‘shut down’ sessions because of protests, leaving residents without the opportunity to discuss the project with SMC staff.
- There was general agreement at the meeting that all submissions on the Concept Design and EIS would be ‘written off’ by SMC and DP&E, as they were for Stages 1 and 2. There are areas of assessment for the Stage 3 EIS – in particular, health impacts - where there are few experts, so relevant NSW Government agencies will need to critique the EIS. Lack of suitable/available specialists (who are not already working for WestConnex) has been an issue for some time.
- A community representative asked that Council should raise the following ‘process’ issues in its EIS submission: lack of time between exhibition of the Concept Design and EIS; no allowances made for visually impaired people; and the document not available in Word format.
- A community representative explained that after the EIS has been assessed, a Preferred Infrastructure Report will be drafted by SMC and submitted to the DP&E. The community representative had been told by SMC that there is no requirement for the Preferred Infrastructure Report to be made public. This is not considered acceptable.
- A community representative raised a concern about loss of space in Burawan Park, Annandale for creation of a Stage 3 construction site.
- Concerns were raised by a community representative about the possibility of spoil trucks travelling along Liverpool Road through Ashfield shopping centre. An alternative route may be provided in the Preferred Infrastructure Report. It was reported that traffic management plans in the Stage 3 EIS include the same figures as in the Stage 2 EIS. This may indicate there are errors in the EIS.
- A community representative stated there was a need to maintain easements in and around the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site for future heavy and light rail projects. A Council representative explained that this issue has been raised by Council on several occasions, and will be raised in Council’s EIS submission.
- A concern was raised by a community representative that the Sydney Gateway is not part of Stage 3 or any part of WestConnex. There are concerns in the community that if the Gateway project is not built, WestConnex will make traffic around Sydney Airport much worse.
- A Council representative explained that staff from Beca (Council’s consultants) will be participating in various briefings with Council staff, councillors and SMC, and will be attending the Stage 3 EIS public meeting.
- A community representative raised concerns about lack of precision in the location of the Western Harbour Tunnel stubs, as SMC has informed the community that there can be a

variance as great as 20% on the location of tunnels such as these. It is assumed there will be a higher level of accuracy within the Stage 3 Preferred Infrastructure Report.

- A community representative explained that as the precise tunnel alignment is will be determined by a contractor (to be appointed later), there is uncertainty for homeowners as they can't determine if tunnels will pass beneath them. SMC has advised that only residents located within a 50m radius of the tunnels will be notified and will be able to have dilapidation reports prepared for their properties.

Item 4: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) update

A verbal update was given by EPA's Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure on current odour and noise issues related to the project.

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- EPA has had reports of dust impacts from Loudon Street, Walker Street and Allum Lane in Haberfield. Inspections have been carried out, but the challenge remains that the dust must be seen coming from construction compounds. There is also a need for photo and/or video evidence of the dust moving over the fences.
- EPA does not undertake vibration monitoring.
- Currently EPA is undertaking two to three inspections a week in St Peters. There have been reports of dust impacts from the Campbell Street work site, but again there is no visual evidence. EPA representatives have seen that project staff have been using hoses to dampen dust, but needs more evidence of dust from trucks.
- EPA is currently preparing a response to the EIS - specifically on air quality, contaminated lands, noise and water. EPA representatives have attended Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) workshops, and will be working with other State agencies to address issues around cumulative impacts of multiple projects.
- The EPA representative provided a summary of complaints matters, as follows:
 - the EPA call centre receives complaints and logs them in a database;
 - complaints are allocated to officers for review by the responsible agency – usually DP&E or EPA;
 - EPA contacts the complainant and the licensee;
 - EPA investigates whether a breach has occurred;
 - the pattern of complaints affects the allocation of EPA staff who will gather evidence of breaches;
 - EPA issues letters and notices in relation to breaches;
 - EPA will set-up video monitoring at hotspots; and
 - all complaints are analysed in the same way.

Item 5: Compliance update

The DP&E's Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer was not in attendance at the meeting, so no compliance update was given.

Summary of actionable items

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

General actions

1. Council to contact SMC to request provision of financial analysis on filtered versus unfiltered ventilation stacks, and to ask if in-tunnel ventilation has ever been considered for WestConnex.

Current situation: Council has forwarded this request to SMC, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

2. Council to request WCRG dates for the remainder of 2017 and relay the message that members request a meeting prior to the Stage 3 M4-M5 Link submission closing date.

Current situation: Council has been advised by the WCRG Chair that a meeting prior to the EIS submission deadline was not possible. The next WCRG meeting has been scheduled for 7 November 2017. This brings the total number of meetings in 2017 to six, which is the minimum requirement set out in the WCRG's terms of reference.

Stage 1 actions

3. Council to issue press release or statement highlighting the fact that tunnelling is nearing completion in Haberfield and there has been no truck marshalling strategy in place.

Current situation: Council's communications team will be highlighting this issue in a future media release, most likely in relation to the Stage 3 EIS public meeting.

4. Council to contact EPA to request investigation of the jet fan noise at the corner of Parramatta Road and Bland Street (Ashfield side). EPA to review the approval (including hours of operation) and whether this would allow the jet fan noise to extend beyond standard construction hours.

Current situation: Council has forwarded this request to EPA, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.

5. Council to contact DP&E and seek confirmation that conditions of approval establish a proportion (%) of land required to be returned to community from the M4 East.

Current situation: Council has forward this request to DP&E, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.

6. Council to contact the Stage 1 contractor CSJ to seek clarification on construction site boundaries in Reg Coady Reserve.

Current situation: CSJ is planning to submit a Consistency Assessment to Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) seeking approval to extend the use of some land within Reg Coady Reserve for an additional 5 months. The extension will allow CSJ to utilise the area in question as a laydown area for drainage work.

Stage 2 actions

7. Council staff to bring the Camdenville Masterplan to the next WCLF meeting in October.
Current situation: Council staff have requested the document, and will report findings to a future WCLF meeting.

Stage 3 actions

8. Council staff to make available print copies of the Concept Design submission wherever the EIS is on exhibition in the Inner West Council area.
Current situation: Print copies of the Concept Design submission were distributed on 14 September 2017, and WCLF members have been notified of this by email.
9. Council staff to undertake further investigation into the issue of in-tunnel filtration, including the costs/benefits of this for construction/operation. Findings to be included in the EIS submission.
Current situation: Council staff will seek consultation with bio-scientist Mark Curran, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
10. Council staff to enquire about the possibility of the WestConnex banners being displayed around the Council area now that the Council elections have been held.
Current situation: Banners are unable to be placed in the suggested locations due to pre-booking of these locations for other Council events and activities.
11. Council to investigate promotional options for the forthcoming screening of the movie *Citizen Jane – Battle for the City*.
Current situation: Council has promoted the movie in the WestConnex Weekly Update Report and in Council's weekly e-news bulletin.
12. Council to seek comment on health issues from Sydney Local Area Health (SLAH) for the EIS submission.
Current situation: Council to seek consultation with SLAH staff, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
13. Council to write to the DP&E to request that the Preferred Infrastructure Report be made available for public comment.
Current situation: Council staff will raise this with the DP&E, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.
14. Council to ask SMC about monitoring being undertaken in relation to the removal of contamination products from the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site.
Current situation: Council has forward this request to SMC, and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 5 October 2017, 10:00am to 12:30pm
Level 2 Leichhardt Service Centre
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt