

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at the St Peters Council Depot, Building A Level 1
10:00am-12:45pm, Thursday 1 November 2018**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

In attendance:

Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Anne Picot	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestCONNex Action Group (WAG)
Paul Jeffrey	NoWPT & WAG
Sharon Laura	Haberfield resident
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Association
Graeme McKay	Haberfield resident
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Monette Lea	Rozelle resident
David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning Inner West Council (IWC)
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit, IWC
Maree Laing	Community Organiser, WestConnex Unit, IWC
Brian Chadwell	Administration Officer, WestConnex Unit, IWC
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Maria Divis	Senior Compliance Officer, DP&E
Jacinta Haneman	Manager Regional Operations – Metropolitan Infrastructure, EPA
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

- 1. Welcome by Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3. Apologies**

LJ Loch	WestProtects
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield resident
Lesley Treleavan	Camperdown Against WestConnex
Rachel Davies	Ashfield resident
Michael Zanardo	Haberfield resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association
Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 4 October 2018 meeting

The previous meeting's minutes were approved subject to the following amendments:

- Sharon Laura was *not* absent from the last meeting, but had attended the meeting via phone;
- Item 2, Stage 3 update report, Point 3 - for accuracy, this point should read that monitoring units cost approximately \$60 each; and
- Item 4, Point 1 - point is amended to reflect the fact that DP&E has *not* yet approved appointment of an auditor – DP&E is still in consultation with the EPA on this matter.

Item 2: WestConnex update reports

Stage 1 report

Key points of discussion were:

- Noise pollution issues continue in connection with this project, as shown by two examples: at 8pm on 31 October 2018, noise from construction works was still audible from inside houses on Bland Street, Haberfield that were more than 200m from the works; and at 2am that night, trucks could be heard roaring and running up and down Bland Street and construction workers could be heard conversing loudly as they returned to their vehicles upon finishing their shift.
- The above matters have been brought directly to the project's attention, with the Stage 1 contractor stating that the second issue above would be ameliorated by the project using the Parramatta Road site for parking and other activities.
- EPA has issued a letter this past week to SMC and the Stage 1 contractor about the independence of air quality consultant North Star, addressing possible conflicts of interest.

See Action Item 1 below

Stage 2 report

Key points of discussion were:

- The footpaths in the St Peters area are in a horrendous state, being almost too rough to navigate.
- Air pollution at the St Peters childcare centre and St Peters Primary School (as well as Haberfield Primary School) is being attributed to WestConnex construction works. EPA staff have raised this issue with the project and have also responded to members of the community about it. EPA staff stated that air quality near roads is influenced by traffic emissions and that a comparison between heavily-trafficked roads, ventilation stacks and national averages is not appropriate.
- There is a need for WestConnex construction sites to be cleaner and better managed. EPA staff stated that they conduct weekly inspections of these sites. EPA has issued a \$15,000 fine to the WestConnex contractors for mud-tracking.
- Council and the community is still arguing for a 40kph school zone on Campbell Street near St Peters Street, both during and after construction.

- The community would like the contractor to have more traffic controllers in the St Peters area.
- The wording of the notification for 31 October 2018 day and night works is confusing. The noise pollution during the time period proposed is unacceptable, even with the project offering alternative accommodation.

See Action Items 2 & 3 below.

Stage 3 report

Key points of discussion were:

- ~~Recently there has been an increase in worker parking demand in Haberfield-Ashfield, which can be largely attributed to the overlap of Stage 3A and Stage 1 works. Lack of parking around the Haberfield Primary School at dropoff/pickup times is creating safety issues.~~ AMENDED (removed) – Stage 3A has not yet begun to impact traffic and parking.
- Haberfield-Ashfield residents feel there is a lack of comprehensive information about the Stage 3 and its impacts.
- There is concern that the final routes of tunnels may vary from that shown on WestConnex website maps.
- The zone which identifies properties eligible from precondition reports should be widened from 50m to 100m around construction sites and tunnel alignments.
- The property precondition reports commissioned and funded by the project are not independent enough to be satisfactory, even though there is an independent peer-review panel for reports that are disputed. The whole precondition reporting process is not satisfactory.
- It is noted that Stage 3A is being implemented by SMC and Stage 3B is being implemented directly by RMS.
- Some local groups (including schools) are seeking and accepting WestConnex community grants of up to \$10,000.
- Community members would like independent air monitoring along the WestConnex alignment (starting now) to establish a pre-operation baseline.
- Community members would like to know where the tunnel will begin in St Peters.
- Community members would like to know criteria for people being appointed to the property precondition reporting peer-review panel.

See Action Items 4 to 6 below

General project report

Key points of discussion were:

- Council staff explained that the WestConnex Update Report and the draft submission on the Western Harbour Tunnel reference design were considered at the 30 October 2018 Council meeting, but will need to be considered again at the 6 November 2018 meeting for Council to make a resolution.
- Submissions on the WHT reference design are now due on 1 December 2018. It would appear planning on for the WHT is progressing slowly compared to the experience to date with WestConnex. At this stage it is expected that an Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) for the WHT would be released for public exhibition in the first half of next year – more likely toward mid-year.

- EPA staff explained that the court case over the odour issues at the St Peters Interchange site is continuing.

See Action Item 7 below.

Item 3: EPA update

EPA's Acting Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure provided a verbal compliance report. Key points were:

- EPA has requested the Stage 2 contractor to undertake an investigation of blasting vibration impact issues in St. Peters as a result of a complaint.
- EPA has recently issued an Environmental Protection License (EPL) to the Stage 3A contractor.
- EPA has met with the Stage 3 contractor to discuss out-of-hours work (OOHW) coordination. The Stage 3 contractor will need to coordinate OOHW with the Stage 1 and 2 contractors to avoid the situation where overlapping works reduce respite. EPA is wanting to avoid OOHW issues experienced from Stages 1 and 2.
- There will be no more blanket night-work approvals – works proposed will require individual applications. EPA will continue to investigate any apparent breaches of their night-works guidelines.
- EPA is investigating the Stage 2 contractor's day and night works schedules to ensure there are adequate respite periods.
- The current works to establish sites in Haberfield-Ashfield are not covered by an EPA license, nor is there a parking plan. These works are within DP&E jurisdiction, not EPA's.
- EPA staff are presenting at the WestConnex inquiry on 7 November 2018.
- The Stage 2 contractor has pleaded guilty to the charge of offensive odour from the SPI site. This is now on the public record on the Land & Environment Court website – see transcripts for 17 April, 23 & 26 May and 9 June 2018.
- Community members have seen workers operating without protection from silica dust. Project managers need to provide adequate protection. DP&E staff noted that regulations to protect workers against airborne silica have been improved recently. This includes testing of workers.
- EPA to include in its WestConnex inquiry submission opening statement what the community has been telling the EPA.

See Action Items 8 & 9 below.

Item 4: DP&E compliance update

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

- DP&E has noted that there are currently parking issues in Haberfield-Ashfield from the overlap of Stages 1 and 3.

- The Stage 3A contractor has been engaged in fortnightly co-ordination meetings with the contractors for Stages 1 and 2.
- DP&E is aware that construction air quality is being raised by the community as a significant issue. AMENDMENT: Forum members wish it explicitly noted that this response does not adequately reflect the community's concerns.
- It should be noted that the Community Reference Group (Southern) meeting is now on 13 November 2018, not 6 November as originally planned.
- A hearing is scheduled for next week for DP&E to deal with a prosecution over a truck not adhering to an approved route.
- The NSW Government recognises the need to co-ordinate multiple works and manage impacts from activities proposed for White Bay and Glebe Island.

See Action Item 10 below.

Item 5: Other business

1. Council's WestConnex Community Organiser advised she has been meeting with all WestConnex advocacy groups to establish a knowledge-base and list of contacts. No objections were raised to the Community Organiser using the meeting sign-in sheet to assist with developing the contact details list.
2. WCLF members formally thanked the outgoing WestConnex Unit Administration Officer for her time and dedication.
3. WCLF members asked if an RMS representative could attend WCLF meetings.
4. WCLF members asked if revised complaints leaflets could be developed, printed and distributed. The Community Organiser stated that new leaflets were now being developed.
5. A community member asked if posted speed limits could be reduced and traffic calming installed in streets around the new work sites.
6. The DP&E representative stated that he would let WCLF know the number of breaches that DP&E was investigating.

See Action Item 11 below.

Summary of actionable items

Item 2 actions

Stage 1 actions

1. *Action:* Council staff to raise concerns about Stage 1 construction noise impacts of with the contractor. *Current status:* Council staff raised noise issues at the Stage project interface meeting on 29 November 2018.

Stage 2 actions

2. *Action:* Council to advocate for more resources allocated to EPA for air pollution monitoring, including dust monitoring. *Current status:* Council staff to seek a Council resolution at the next opportunity in 2019 to write to the Minister for the Environment on this issue.

3. *Action:* Bring St Peters enforcement matters to the attention of Council's rangers.
Current status: Council's WestConnex Unit staff will continue to raise relevant issues with Council's rangers as they arise.

Stage 3 actions

4. *Action:* Request EPA to undertake air quality monitoring along the proposed Stage 3A route (starting now) to establish baseline and see changes. *Current status:* Council staff to seek a Council resolution at the next opportunity in 2019 to write to the Minister for the Environment on this issue.
5. *Action:* Council to seek clarification of end points of the Stage 3A tunnel in St Peters and disseminate this information. *Current status:* The map posted on 23 November 2018 on the WestConnex website shows the Stage 3A tunnel alignment and the end points of the Stage 3A tunnels in St Peters.
6. *Action:* Council to seek from SMC and/or RMS details about the formation of a peer-review panel for property precondition reports. *Current status:* SMC has stated that the peer-review panel is for reports based on geo-technical surveys, not property precondition reports. The latter reports are based on a visual inspection with camera documentation only and do not go into detail about geology etc. To be appointed to the panel, individuals must be experienced engineers with no prior or current connections to WestConnex.

General Project actions

7. *Action:* Encourage contractors for all stages of WCX to use pedestrian plates whenever possible, as used by the Stage 2 contractors. *Current status:* Council staff will continue to encourage use of pedestrian plates in discussions at project interface meetings.

Item 3 actions

8. *Action:* EPA to report violations of workplace health and safety requirements to WorkSafe and report progress back the WCLF. *Current status:* EPA staff to report back on this matter at a future WCLF meeting.
9. *Action:* EPA to raise issues of about the overlap of day and night works between the three project stages with all WestConnex contractors and report back to WCLF. *Current status:* EPA staff to report back on this matter at a future WCLF meeting.

X. AMENDED (Previously omitted) *Action:* EPA to give this Forum its response to the Geneva Air Conference. *Current status:* EPA staff to report back on this matter at a future WCLF meeting.

Item 4 actions

10. *Action:* DP&E to inform Haberfield WCLF members about the date of the hearing on the truck route issue. *Current status:* DP&E staff to inform of progress at the next (December 2018) WCLF meeting.

Item 5 actions

11. *Action:* Council staff to request to RMS that they send delegate(s) to WCLF meetings.
Current status: RMS's response to be reported to WCLF when received.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

Next meeting: **Thursday 6 December 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm**
Level 2 Council's Leichhardt Service Centre
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt