

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at Ashfield Service Centre
9:00am-11:30am, Thursday 5 July 2018**

The meeting commenced at 9:00am

In attendance:

Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Paul Jeffrey	NoWPT, WestCONNex Action Group
Graeme McKay	Haberfield Resident
Anne Picot	NoWPT, WestCONNex Action Group
Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit, Inner West Council (IWC)
Felix Liu	Engineer WestConnex Unit IWC
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer WestConnex Unit IWC
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Maria Divis	Compliance Officer DP&E
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Jacinta Hanemann	Head of Infrastructure EPA
Kleete Simpson	Medical Epidemiologist, Public Health Unit, Sydney Local Health District, NSW Health

1. Welcome by Manager WestConnex Unit, IWC

The Manager WestConnex Unit welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC
Michael Zarnado	Haberfield Resident
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
Lesley Treleaven	Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Elizabeth Johnstone	WestProtects

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 7 June 2018 meeting & update on actionable items

It was determined that:

1. Minutes of the WCLF bus tour held on 7 June 2018 be adopted; and
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion were:

- The bus tour went well, with three Councillors attending - Councillors Lockie, McKenna and da Cruz.
- It was suggested a summary of construction impacts could have been handed out with the itinerary.
- WestConnex Community Liaison Group (WCRG) meetings have recommenced for 2018, with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) now convening these, not Sydney Motorway Corporation (SMC) as was the case last year. It was noted that at the first Southern (Stage 2) WCRG meeting on 12 June 2018 there was underrepresentation by the community. Council confirmed that RMS had stated it would willingly accept additional applications from residents, and Council had sent out an email to WCLF members and active residents advising them of this.
- Forum members wish to acknowledge the contribution of activist Liz Butterworth, who recently passed away. Liz has been described as a true believer in progressive politics and an activist for over 40 years, having marched against the Vietnam War and apartheid. For the past four years Liz was a key local member of the No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) community advocacy group.
- *Refer to Action Item 1 below.*

Item 2: Sydney Local Area Health Services Update Report

A presentation was made by a medical epidemiologist from the Public Health Unit, Sydney Local Health District, NSW Health. The presentation covered the following areas:

- the role of the Public Health Unit;
- particulate matter and health;
- NSW Health's role in assessment of developments like WestConnex; and
- NSW Health's general role with compliance.

The presentation was sent by email to all WCLF members on 6 July 2018.

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

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 were:

- A member reported that Stage 1 staff are now participating in meetings with staff from RMS, the Sydney Co-ordination Office and Jemena (a utilities company) on a number of issues. This is considered to be a major breakthrough, as these kinds of meetings have not occurred previously. The member advised the forum that Stage 2 members should be asking Stage 2 project staff who they are liaising with, and apply pressure for contact to be made with utilities companies etc.
- It was also suggested residents living close to surface construction sites create street groups such as the Walker Avenue Neighbourhood Group (WANG) in Haberfield. It is essential to find out who the Director of Surface Works is and who is dealing with the utility providers.
- Concerns were raised over increased air pollution around Walker Avenue at Haberfield. The realignment of Parramatta Road means the road is now closer to homes, and residents are smelling the fumes and seeing black soot in their gardens and on their roofs. This is also being experienced in Loftus Street, Ashfield.
- There is disappointment with feedback from the Stage 1 project that the issues with pedestrian pathways and tactile markers will be addressed when the motorway is operational and not now when it is needed. The condition of the footpath between Wattle Street and Northcote Street is particularly disgraceful.
- At the WCRG Western meeting held on 19 June 2018, the RMS WestConnex Project Director committed to a walk-around with residents to view first-hand the condition of the pedestrian pathways in Haberfield. A member raised the issue of the lift servicing the Bland Street overpass, where there is no longer enough turning space for pram users to easily exit onto the footpath. Footpaths along Bland Street, Ashfield are not safe. Council confirmed that footpath restoration works are expected to be completed by end of June 2018.
- Members expressed concern for the wellbeing of residents of the public housing complex on Dobroyd Parade, Haberfield. It has been reported that Stage 1 project staff are not engaging with these residents. Currently these residents are unable to place garbage bins out for collection due to construction works. Project staff are doing this for some residents, but have forgotten on at least one occasion. Some residents in this complex seem to be afraid to speak up as they fear eviction.
- The Walker Avenue road barrier was raised again, and the confusion around why it is even in place. Project staff have advised that as the recent consultation on this matter did not meet the minimum-response standard. It therefore appears the road barrier will remain until the project decides it needs to be removed.
- Some residents of Walker Avenue, whose backyards adjoin Wattle Street, are now being affected by motorway street lights shining into their homes 24 hours a day. Scaffolding noise continues to come from the Parramatta Road Ventilation Facility (PRVF) and floodlights within this site are affecting neighbouring properties. One of the two cranes will be dismantled in July 2018.
- The EPA representative advised that EPA staff have met with the NSW Government's Sydney Co-ordination Office seeking more flexibility around Environment Protection Licence (EPL) conditions.
- At the end of 2016, a number of Haberfield residents participated in a ballot to obtain heritage items salvaged from the demolition of compulsorily-acquired homes. These items are still being stored in the community, and a forum member asked if Council could store these items and consider how they could be used in a creative way.

- The Wattle Street G-loop will close permanently by the end of July 2018, with new slip lanes to be put into place along Wattle Street. This will change how people move around Haberfield.
- *Refer to Action Items 2-4 below.*

Stage 2 update report

- The critical issue for St Peters residents at the moment is the dust from surface construction sites. There appears to be a rise in respiratory ailments in the suburb, such as asthma from people who have never suffered from it before. The number of heavy vehicles using Campbell Street is seen as a contributing factor.
- A question was asked about what was happening with the air quality monitoring station at St Peters Public School. The EPA representative advised that EPA staff have spoken to RMS and SMC staff, who have confirmed the station is operating and RMS is covering operating costs. Results are not public, and there is no requirement that they be made public until 12-months prior to operation. RMS's Motorways Environmental Director has not provided information on the current monitoring arrangement.
- A forum member expressed disappointment that the Campbell Street carpark shown in the Stage 2 Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) has not been deleted. Why can't this area be left as green space? There were also concerns that the car park may be used as a turning circle by residents of Florence and Brown Streets.
- A forum member requested that Council investigate the UDLP design for the intersection of Campbell Street and St Peters Street. This intersection will be next to the proposed carpark, and is a major crossing point for students attending St Peters Primary School.
- There will be an increase in population and pedestrian traffic in the St Peters area, with 200 additional units recently approved for Applebee and Hutchinson Streets. It is disappointing that the RMS will not implement a 40kph speed limit on Campbell Street despite Council and the community repeatedly asking for this.
- There is continuing confusion over notifications issued by the Stage 2 project team, particularly for works and road closures in and around Barwon Park Road. Residents are confused, not knowing what will be a temporary change and what will be permanent. Also, traffic controllers struggle to do a proper job.
- A community member asked the EPA representative if EPA had requested air quality records when investigating the odour issue in 2017. The EPA representative confirmed they had requested these records. Whilst the records won't be officially published, they will be available once the matter is before the court. The hearing will be open to the public.
- *Refer to Action Items 5-6 below.*

Stage 3 update report

- The announcement that the Darley Road mid-tunnel dive site would no longer be required by appointed contractor Lendlease Engineering, Samsung C&T Corporation and Bougues Construction (LSB JV) has been well received. Darley Road has always been seen as an inappropriate location for a WestConnex construction site. Recently a B-double truck jack-knifed trying to turn from Darley Road onto the City West Link Road. It then rolled backwards and hit a power pole. It is rumoured that Dan Murphy's will be staying on the site.

- A Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW) representative expressed satisfaction with the recently-announced *Impact of WestConnex* Parliamentary Inquiry. Submissions close on Tuesday 31 August 2018.
- LAW members recently met with the General Manager and relevant Council staff over initiating a resident parking scheme for the local residential streets connecting to Darley Road. The community is requesting that Council continue to progress the resident parking scheme and truck weight limitations.
- With five construction sites in Ashfield and Haberfield approved for Stage 3, it is not clear what surface lands will be required, and there is concern that UDLP obligations from Stage 1 will be delayed. Additionally, Stage 3 spoil truck routes have not been finalised. Routes are expected to be considered as part of the modification required for use of the Northcote site for tunnelling.

Item 4: EPA update

A presentation was given by EPA's Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure on *Interpreting ambient air quality monitoring data*. This covered:

- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) air quality monitoring station locations;
- what is being monitored;
- national ambient air quality standards;
- variability in ambient air quality over time; and
- daily variability in ambient air quality.

As was requested at the meeting, information is provided below on international standards/criteria for particulate matter air pollution. Some of these criteria are not directly comparable due to the differences between the methods by which air quality measurements are analysed for comparison against the criteria (e.g. averaging and the use of percentiles), and differences in the number of allowable exceedances per year.

Australian and international ambient air quality standards/guidelines/criteria/targets for particulate matter

	PM2.5		PM10	
	Daily mean	Annual mean	Daily mean	Annual mean
Australia	25 µg/m ³ (not applicable during exceptional events e.g. bushfires and hazard reduction burns)	8 µg/m ³	50 µg/m ³ (not applicable during exceptional events e.g. bushfires and hazard reduction burns)	25 µg/m ³
WHO	25 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 3 days per year)	10 µg/m ³	50 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 3 days per year)	20 µg/m ³
EU	[No criteria]	25 µg/m ³ (averaged over 3 years)	50 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 35 days per year)	40 µg/m ³

Canada	28 µg/m ³ (the 3-year average of the annual 98 th percentile of the daily average concentrations should not exceed this value)	10 µg/m ³ (the 3 year average of the annual average concentrations should not exceed this value)	[No criteria]	[No criteria]
US*	35 µg/m ³ (98 th percentile concentration, averaged over 3 years should not exceed this value)	12 µg/m ³ (averaged over 3 years)	150 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years)	[No criteria]

*This is the primary standard that provide public health protection, including protecting the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. There is a secondary standard with higher concentrations for PM2.5 which is intended to provide public welfare protection, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

Note: µg/m³ means micrograms per cubic metre.

Sources:

Australia: www.nepc.gov.au/nepms/ambient-air-quality

WHO: http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/outdoorair_aqg/en/

EU: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/standards.htm>

Canada: https://www.ccme.ca/files/current_priorities/aqms_elements/caags_and_azmf.pdf

US: <https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table>

The presentation, which included the above table, was sent by email to forum members on 16 July 2018.

In addition, a brief verbal compliance report was provided. EPA's for both stages of WestConnex has been dust, particularly around the St Peters Interchange site, Campbell Street (St Peters) Walker Avenue (Haberfield) and Loftus Street (Ashfield). A number of warning letters have been issued relating to dust and mud-tracking from construction vehicles.

Item 5: DP&E compliance update

The DP&E's Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer provided a verbal compliance update, as follows:

- The DP&E Principal Compliance Officer has been contacted by the appointed contractor for Stage 3 mainline tunnels seeking consultation on truck management, with a view to taking on board lessons learned from Stages 1 & 2. A meeting has been arranged, with EPA invited to attend.
- As a result of WCRG discussions, the RMS WestConnex Project Director will undertake a walk-around of affected streets in Haberfield with DP&E compliance staff.

Item 6: Other Business

- Council sought forum members' comments about WCLF meetings occurring every two months now that WCRG meetings have resumed. The unanimous view from members was to keep forum monthly. WCLF meetings were seen as a key opportunity for community members from all three stages to meet, and for members to liaise with DP&E and EPA staff.

Summary of actionable items

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

General actions

1. Council to write to the councillors who attended the bus tour and thank them for their attendance.

Current situation: Letters have been sent.

Stage 1 actions

2. Council to inform the Mayor and councillors of the condition of the footpaths in Haberfield and suggest a media opportunity is created to highlight this issue.

Current situation: Council staff to contact the Mayor's office and councillors requesting action on this matter and responses will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

3. Council to investigate what size storage facility would be required for heritage items being stored by the community.

Current situation: Council staff have contacted members of the Haberfield community seeking clarification on the number and size of items to be stored.

4. Council to consult with key stakeholders on how salvaged heritage items in Haberfield can be put to creative community uses.

Current situation: Council staff have advised Sydney Motor Corporation and the Community and Culture team within Council of the communities desire for these items to be creatively used in Haberfield and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

Stage 2 actions

5. Council to make representations to the RMS seeking clarification on the purpose and use of data from the St Peters Public School air quality monitoring station.

Current situation: Council has sent this request to the RMS and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

6. Council to contact the RMS and seek clarification on how the St Peters and Campbell Street intersection will be treated.

Current situation: Council has sent this request to the RMS and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:40pm.



Next meeting: Thursday 2 August 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm
Building A, Level 1 Waranara Room
Inner West Council St Peters Depot
15-17 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters