

**Minutes of the
WestConnex Community Liaison Forum (WCLF)
held at Leichhardt Service Centre
10:00am-12:30pm, Friday 6 April 2018**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

In attendance:

Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Anne Picot	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT), WestCONnex Action Group
Paul Jeffrey	NoWPT, WestCONnex Action Group
Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Graeme McKay	Haberfield Resident
Michael Zarnado	Haberfield Resident
Catherine Gemmell	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)
David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning Inner West Council (IWC)
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit 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)
Timothy Collis	Compliance Officer DP&E
Maria Divis	Compliance Officer DP&E
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Jacinta Hanemann	Head of Infrastructure EPA

1. **Welcome by Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC**
The Group Manager Strategic Planning welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

Jennifer Aaron	LAW
Lesley Treleaven	Camperdown Residents Against WestConnex
LJ Loch	WestProtects
Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale

Claire Miles

Operations Officer Metropolitan Infrastructure EPA

4. Items for consideration by WCLF**Item 1: Minutes from 1 March 2018 meeting & update on actionable items****It was determined that:**

1. Minutes of the WCLF meeting held on 1 March 2018 be adopted; and
2. The update on actionable items be received and noted.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

- Members asked why the community was not consulted in Council's response to the Stage 3 Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure Response (SPIR), as the advocacy groups feel they have no standing with the DP&E.
- The Council staff response was that WCLF members were encouraged to prepare and submit their own submissions. Council's SPIR response has been reported through the WestConnex Weekly Update and has been posted on Council's website.
- A member asked if Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has confirmed it will be using the former Balmain Leagues Club site as a dive-site for Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT). Council staff advised that no further information has been received by RMS on this matter.

Item 2: 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 Council officer's report on dilapidation reporting will be considered by Council at its 24 April 2018 meeting.
- The M4 East project team has advised that Waratah Street at Haberfield will be closed at the intersection of City West Link and Dobroyd Parade from Friday 13 April 2018 for six weeks. During this closure vehicles will not be able to turn into Waratah Street from Dobroyd Parade or out of Waratah Street onto Dobroyd Parade. Detours include use of Boomerang and Empire Streets. There will be no right-hand turn from Parramatta Road until James Street. There has been no consultation with residents, businesses or Council on this matter at this stage. The closure is required because of the need for extensive utility works.
- Residents of Walker Avenue have asked that the barriers in the centre of the roadway be removed. The M4 East project team suggests that its purpose is a sound barrier, and if it is removed residents will not be able to complain about the noise. EPA is taking an interest in this matter. Community consultation has closed and an outcome is pending.
- Construction work for the Parramatta Road Ventilation Facility (PRVF) will reach ground level in early May 2018. Ventilation stacks will be completed by the end of November 2018. Landscaping and substation works will be completed during October 2018. No

dates have been provided for when the fixed cranes are to be dismantled. Tunnelling is still being undertaken within the two vent tunnels leading into the PRVF, and this is expected to be completed in the next two to three weeks. Benching work in the mainline tunnel stubs to Alt Street continues. Residents are reporting a 'rolling thunder' noise from this last section of tunnelling and benching. Residents are unsure if EPA or DP&E have been informed of this issue.

- Walker Avenue residents are experiencing noise and traffic fume impacts due to a gap in the noise wall between Allum and Ramsay Streets at Haberfield. The M4 East environment team is investigating and EPA has been informed verbally of this issue.
- Walker Avenue residents are also suffering from light spill into their homes from the newly-aligned Wattle Street carriageway, and DP&E is aware of this. This has implications for residents along Parramatta Road following the westbound traffic switch this week.
- Pedestrian safety remains an issue, particularly where there are no tactile markings for visually impaired persons. RMS had approved designs for the Wattle Street and Ramsay Street footpaths, but tactile markings were not required. RMS and SMC engineers are looking to re-design the footpaths to put in the tactile markers at all affected intersections. There appears to be a standoff between RMS and the M4 East project on this issue. Action should be taken by the community and Council on this unsatisfactory situation.
- Variable Message Signage (VMS) proposed for Dalhousie and Waratah Streets in Haberfield has been modified after community consultation in October 2017. The M4 East project team has issued a consultation letter dated 27 March 2018 asking for the community's response on the modified designs by Thursday 12 April 2018. The proposed signage has been reduced in size and there will be one VMS sign and one static sign instead of two of each. The proposed tunnel clearance sign has been deleted.
- The initial resident consultation on the Dobroyd Parade noise wall was improperly carried out, which left residents confused and frustrated. There is still no clear indication on whether the design will be 3m Hebbel / 2m acrylic or 5m Hebbel, and how long the wall will be. The M4 East project team has indicated a decision should be reached in the next two to three weeks.
- The westbound Parramatta Road traffic switch will occur on Sunday 8 April 2018. The eastbound section of Parramatta Road will be subject to utility work, which will occur between Chandos Street and Rogers Avenue. Work at the front of Yasmar will be undertaken later, and advice will need to be provided by the project on how heritage trees will be preserved. M4 East builders say that they will almost certainly be able to modify their plans to minimise impacts on tree roots at the front of Yasmar. The works here will affect the driveway into Yasmar, which has implications for heritage tree roots and the heritage gates. Vigilance is required by Council and the community on this matter.
- Haberfield-Ashfield residents are disappointed that footpaths along the new Parramatta Road alignment at Ashfield are narrow and do not include a nature strip.
- Currently DP&E is notifying a modification for a left turn out only arrangement at Rogers Avenue, with vehicles not being able to turn left in from Parramatta Road. The service station on the corner will lose one of its exits onto Parramatta Road. There is the risk of a rat run from left-hand turns into Rogers Avenue. Council staff have confirmed that Council has been asked to make a submission on this modification.

- The median strip in Chandos Street Ashfield will restrict access for residents of 78 Chandos Street. What does DP&E and RMS know about this?
- Haberfield residents are having discussions with EPA staff on the issue of general noise intrusion, and the M4 East project has offered to undertake individual noise monitoring of properties. Residents are now requesting readings to be carried out by an independent body over time in multiple locations. This request will be put to M4 East project team, and EPA will be informed of the outcome.
- Ashfield and Haberfield residents met with the regional director of Woolworths and raised concerns over the Brescia site. It would appear that Woolworths will need to lodge a new development application. Residents reported that Woolworths managers have been unaware of the proposed construction site for Stage 3 at Muirs, and of associated truck movements along Parramatta Road in Haberfield.
- Members of the Haberfield Primary School community and local residents have convened a rally for Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 8am at the Muir's site on the corner of Bland Street and Parramatta Road. The rally focuses on local impacts from the two new above-ground Stage 3 construction sites along Parramatta Road. Support and attendance from other groups and councillors is welcomed.
- *Refer to Actionable Items 1 - 3 listed below.*

Stage 2 update report

- There are ongoing issues from out-of-hours works (OOHW) in St Peters. There is noise from compacting works at the St Peters Interchange (SPI) site, which is more annoying than the clanging noise near Campbell Road. Residents are tired of complaining and receiving the same response from New M5 - that noise levels are in accordance with required noise modelling.
- A recent night-works notification issued for works commencing on Monday 9 April 2018 is six pages long. It includes different traffic and pedestrian routes for day and night works, including reversal of one-way traffic from diversions at different times of the day. Highlighted diversions are difficult to read. Residents should receive at least five days' advance notice, but the actual notice time was shorter. The significant loss of resident parking needs to be addressed. People driving through the area have no idea of changed conditions, and this places undue stress on the local community. More traffic controllers are needed.
- Concerns were raised over a potentially unsafe temporary pedestrian access along the Princes Highway and Campbell Street in St Peters. Council staff have investigated this issue with New M5 project staff and it was noted that Council will be undertaking a site safety walk in the St Peters area with DP&E and the New M5 project team.
- DP&E staff advised it has been undertaking regular inspections to ensure the project is complying with conditions of approval. As a result of a recent inspection DP&E staff have made a number of recommendations to New M5 project staff, including increasing the extent of signage and the number of traffic controllers.
- A community representative noted that for Council works on May Street St Peters there was not sufficient signage in place whilst works were being carried out.
- It was noted that there is currently an air quality monitoring station at St Peters Primary School, and a query was raised about who controls it and whether it can be turned on.
- EPA's submission on the Stage 3 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stated that regional air pollution forecasts showed that air quality was not of a sufficiently high

standard. The EIS states people living and working in the area are expected to be subject to unacceptable levels of air pollution. Council had raised this issue in its EIS submission.

- Several thousand submissions raised the issue of WestConnex contributing to unacceptable levels of air pollution. The response from the project is that air pollution is primarily from other sources such as bushfires. During construction, pollution levels are possibly worse than after construction because of dust and diesel fumes from trucks.
- WestConnex Air Quality Community Consultative Committees (AQCCCs) decide on the locations of the air quality monitoring stations. The stations are activated 12 months prior to the motorway opening to establish baseline levels for operational monitoring. It is likely pollution would be worse at the construction stage due to dust and diesel fumes.
- M4 East air monitoring results are showing that current pollution levels are exceeding acceptable levels. Who is following this up? EPA staff advised that EPA operates base stations across the city and is able to examine current conditions and liaise with the project.
- It is timely to contact the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) hub at the University of Wollongong and invite representatives to a WCLF meeting.
- Council staff were asked what progress has been made on the Camdenville Masterplan. Council reconfirmed its position as advised to the 5 October 2017 WCLF meeting – that WestConnex works need to be completed (including the remediation of the current construction area) before Council is in a position to commence works on the upgrade of the park.
- *Refer to Actionable Items 4 - 7 listed below.*

Stage 3 update report

- Concerns were raised around what is happening with WHT works associated with Stage 3. White Bay wharves three and four will be used as concrete casting yards for tunnel sections. The concrete batching facility will also be located in the area. There are rumours in the community that more homes will be compulsory acquired.
- It is expected the NSW Government will do everything possible to get projects approved and construction under way before the March 2019 State election. Need to try and stop this fast-tracking of infrastructure approvals.
- To construct the WHT, up to 1.5m of sludge reportedly needs to be removed from the harbour floor. Where will it go? Is it toxic? Will the sludge pollute harbour water and make it unsafe for swimming at places such as the Dawn Fraser pool?
- The NSW Government appears to have a strategy of approving sections of motorway one at a time, but sections rely on each other to achieve the end goal. Stage 3 should include an assessment of WHT, as the projects are linked. The WHT stubs that are being constructed as part of Stage 3 are going all the way to the border of the suburb of Balmain. So many people still don't know much about WestConnex and WHT, particularly in Balmain and Birchgrove.
- RAW members have distributed 20,000 flyers for the *Rage Against WestConnex* rally on Saturday 14 April 2018. Flyers have been distributed across the Inner West. Luke Foley is unable to attend due to other commitments. The NoWPT media officer will promote the rally through various communication channels. Woolworths and Bakers Delight (Balmain) have donated food for the event.

- The Rozelle community has been concerned about the total destruction of vegetated areas and fauna habitats as a result of the remediation of the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) site. The complete removal of trees is unnecessary, and it is disappointing there has been an inadequate response from RMS to the community's calls for retention of trees. The former Leichhardt Council biodiversity officer had argued for the staged removal of vegetation to preserve some habitat for birds, lizards and other small animals. Local residents have noticed an increase in the number of rats since the clearing began.
- The Stage 3 SPIR states that trucks would be using White Bay as a staging area. It is believed that trucks operating outside of peak periods would make their own way straight to the construction sites. This issue needs to be clarified.
- Residents of streets joining Darley Road in Leichhardt (including Francis, Hubert, Charles and Elswick Street North) have requested that Council close off their streets at the Darley Road end. Council staff are investigating this request.
- It was noted that the following notice of motion raised by Councillor da Cruz was passed at the 10 April 2018 Council meeting: *"THAT Council holds a local public meeting in Annandale to inform the community about the current plans and proposals for major infrastructure projects, and their expected impacts on the health, safety and amenity of people living and working in the local area."* Council staff confirmed that arrangements are now being made to hold this meeting.

Refer to Actionable Items 8 – 14 listed below.

Item 4: EPA update

EPA's Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure provided a verbal compliance report.

Stage 1 (M4 East)

- EPA is continuing to undertake a number of unannounced inspections for out-of-hours work (OOHW).

Stage 2 (New M5)

- There have been a number of complaints regarding an acid-type odour in the St Peters area. It has not been determined if it is related to WestConnex and is still under investigation.
- EPA's investigation of the 2017 SPI site odour issue is in its final stages. A report will be available to the public soon, and this will include a decision on regulatory action.
- The biggest issues for all WestConnex construction sites are noise and dust. A number of unannounced inspections have been scheduled to investigate noise and dust issues.

Stage 3 (M4-M5 Link)

- The EPA has submitted a response to the DP&E on the Stage 3 SPIR.

Item 5: DP&E compliance update

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

- NSW Health staff attend monthly State agency regulatory meetings. As NSW Health does not perform a regulatory function, the NSW Health representative attends as an observer.

Stage 1 (M4 East)

- An official caution was issued to the M4 East project team in relation to barriers that were used in works on Wattle Street and Ramsay Street.
- A penalty notice of \$15,000 was issued to a truck company in relation to use of Bland Street in Haberfield.

Stage 2 (New M5)

- Compliance Officers continue to monitor works in St Peters by making unannounced inspections. Recent visits have resulted in feedback being given to the project on matters such as pedestrian diversions, traffic changes and suggested locations for traffic controllers.

Item 6: Other Business

Bus tour

- The upcoming WCLF bus tour was discussed. It was decided the bus tour would be held on Thursday 7 June 2016 - departing from the Ashfield Service Centre at 9:30am and returning at 12:30pm.
- The bus seats 21 people. Councillors will be invited first, followed by WCLF members and then Council staff.
- The itinerary of the tour will cover current Stages 1 and 2 construction sites and proposed construction sites for Stage 3.
- The bus tour will replace the 7 June 2018 WCLF meeting.

Summary of actionable items

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

Stage 1 actions

1. Council to contact SMC to request status of implementation of tactile markings and other pedestrian safety measures on intersections in Haberfield, seeking completion prior to project finalisation.

Current situation: Council to contact SMC and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

2. Council to contact the SMC and request an update on proposed works that may affect the Yasmar Estate, particularly the entrance area which includes heritage trees and gates.

Current situation: Council to contact SMC and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

3. Council to write to the SMC and the RMS to question the width of the newly-constructed footpath along Parramatta Road in Ashfield from Chandos Street to Bland Street.

Current situation: Council staff to contact SMC and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

Stage 2 actions

4. Council to contract the EPA to establish if the air quality monitoring station at St Peters Primary School is managed by EPA, and if so, can it be turned on now to obtain baseline air quality data?

Current situation: EPA understands that the St Peters School air quality monitoring station is operated by RMS. Council staff are now investigating this with RMS and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

5. DP&E to address the issues associated with the recent complex six-page community notice.

Current situation: DP&E investigations resulted in the work being delayed a week to give residents adequate notice and allowed for the notification to be designed in a more user-friendly format.

6. Council to contact the SMC and request regular air quality monitoring reports from the air quality monitoring stations that are in operation. Reports should include a summary of results.

Current situation: Council to contact the SMC on this matter and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

7. Council to contact CAUL and extend an invitation attend a future WCLF meeting.

Current situation: Council to contact CAUL Hub and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

Stage 3 actions

8. Council staff to update Councillors on the WHT and seek confirmation on how Council will be proceeding with this project.

Current situation: Council staff to consult with Councillors and the response will be reported back to a future WCLF meeting.

9. Council to request greater transparency from the RMS over the design and location of WHT stubs. Council to request the exact distance of the tunnel stubs from the interchange and confirm that they will not extend into the Balmain suburb boundary.

Current situation: Council staff to contact the RMS on this matter and the response will be reported back to a future WCLF meeting.

10. Rozelle Against WestConnex seeks a \$1,100 contribution from Council towards to the cost of *Rage Against WestConnex* rally held on 14 April 2018.

Current situation: Council is currently reviewing the issue of contributions to advocacy groups and the outcome will be reported back to a future WCLF meeting.

11. Council to ask the RMS why so many trees had to be removed from the RRY site, and why wasn't the tree clearing process staged as was requested by Council.

Current situation: Council staff to contact the RMS and the response will be reported back to a future WCLF meeting.

12. Council to ask SMC for clarification on out-of-hours truck movements for Darley Road, where the trucks will be coming from and whether they still need to be stabled at White Bay.

Current situation: Council to contact the SMC on this matter and the response will be reported back to a future WCLF meeting.

13. Council to request from EPA a copy of their response to the Stage 3 SPIR.

Current situation: The EPA are seeking clarification from DP&E on the arrangements for releasing agencies' comments on the SPIR. The response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

14. Council to contact NSW Health representatives and issue an invitation to attend a WCLF meeting.

Current situation: Council staff have been in contact with NSW Health and can confirm representatives will be attending the 5 July 2018 WCLF meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12:50pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 3 May 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm
Downstairs meeting room, St Peters Town Hall
39 Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham