

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

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

In attendance:

Christine Allibone-White	WestProtects
Elizabeth Johnstone	WestProtects
Anne Picot	No WestConnex Public Transport (NoWPT) & WestCONNex Action Group (WAG)
Jennifer Aaron	Leichhardt Against WestConnex (LAW)
Peter Hehir	Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW)
Rachel Davies	Ashfield Resident
Jozefa Sobski	Haberfield Association
Malachy Ward	Haberfield Association
Tom Zelinka	No WestConnex Annandale
Graeme McKay	Haberfield Resident
David Birds	Group Manager Strategic Planning Inner West Council (IWC)
Kendall Banfield	Manager WestConnex Unit, IWC
Maree Laing	Community Organiser, WestConnex Unit, IWC
Robyn Meakins	Administration Officer, WestConnex Unit, IWC
Rob Sherry	Principal WestConnex Compliance Officer, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E)
Kathleen Withers	Compliance Officer, DP&E
Carl Dumpleton	Senior Planning Officer, DP&E
Mike Sharpin	Unit Head Metropolitan Infrastructure Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
Jacinta Hanemann	Head of Infrastructure, EPA
Matthew Reilly	Director Climate & Atmospheric Science, Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH)

1. Welcome by Group Manager Strategic Planning IWC

The Group Manager welcomed all members to the WCLF meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies

Apologies were accepted for the absence of:

Sharon Laura	Haberfield Resident
Cynthia Moore	Haberfield Resident
Michael Zarnado	Haberfield Resident

Paul Jeffrey
LJ Loch

NoWPT & WAG
WestProtects

4. Items for consideration by WCLF

Item 1: Minutes from 2 August 2018 meeting & update on actionable items

It was determined that:

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

Key points raised during the discussion were:

- Council's draft inquiry submission is on Council's website. Council will be lodging a supplementary submission to ensure all feedback is included. The submission was signed off by the Group Manager Strategic Planning.
- A WCLG community member asked who from Council would appear at the inquiry. It would be expected that senior managers would attend, such as the Deputy General Manager Community and Engagement and Group Manager Strategic Planning. Council staff explained that the Mayor may speak on behalf of Council. Forum members stated senior Council officers would be better equipped to speak instead of the Mayor.
- The DP&E representative stated that the inquiry manager would determine the process for speakers.
- Council staff were asked by a community member to consider having a WCLF representative attend, and also key residents who have been affected. It was noted that as residents have lodged their own submissions, they may be called to the inquiry independently of Council.

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 were:

- Recent installation of infrastructure and footings for with signs and over-height detectors has been "devastating" for Haberfield and Ashfield. Waratah Street, Dalhousie Street and Parramatta Road footpaths are now littered with obstructions, including a variety of poles and large cabinets. In Dalhousie Street the cabinet is on the verge, whilst on Parramatta Road they are located on the footpath which is a shared path, and now it just doesn't work. The community is "in a rage", particularly as no consultation took place. The cabinet installed in Waratah Street completely obstructs clear passage for pedestrians particularly those with prams or mobility aids. Anyone walking past the cabinet must move onto the verge to get around it. There are elderly residents so distraught they feel insecure because of all the changes occurring on their neighbourhood footpaths. There are many vulnerable people in the community who are afraid to make complaints. Electrical wires were left lying around while the works were undertaken in Waratah Street. A formal complaint was lodged



with DP&E. One of the issues is determining which standards apply to this infrastructure, and if the locations chosen are compliant.

- IWC staff responded by stating that Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) guidelines are being followed. Council is continuing to argue that the infrastructure not be placed on footpaths or directly in front of homes. Unfortunately RMS has authority under the Roads Act to determine locations without consultation, and this cannot be challenged legally. The community has requested that this matter be escalated to the highest levels of Council. Council staff explained the issue has been raised with the Mayor's office.
- A community member raised the issue of the state of footpaths along Bland Street in Ashfield and along Parramatta Road in front of Ashfield Park. Sydney Motorway Corporation (SMC) should be replacing like with like, instead there is now a 2.9 m minimum from kerb to property line instead of 4 m which was there previously. SMC is arguing that the narrowing of the footway is justified as it has a low volume of pedestrian traffic. A query was raised about requirements from the conditions of approval about footpath dimensions.
- Council staff stated that throughout the Stage 1 consultation process, the focus has been on Haberfield Gardens, not the roadside areas of Ashfield. Further, all the drawings associated with the consultations were not scaled and did not include dimensions, so it has not been possible to accurately determine proposed footpath/footway widths. Council has at different times requested scaled/dimensioned drawings, but these have not been supplied. Council is aware that traffic lanes were widened on that part of Parramatta Road, which could be a further reason why reduced-width footways have resulted.
- Members reported that SMC has advised residents that the various components (sub-plans) of the M4 East Urban Design and Landscape Plans (UDLP) continue to be updated and approved.
- Council staff were asked by a WCLF member about following up on responses to Council letters that have been sent to ministers. Council staff advised that there is not capacity for follow-up on all letters that have been sent.
- There was some concern about geotechnical investigative drilling taking place at the former Muirs site on Parramatta Road, Ashfield. There is a possibility that the ground is contaminated, and this is now being disturbed. Council confirmed that both Muirs locations would not be used for tunnelling – they are only civil sites.

Stage 2 update report

- Out-of-hours works (OOHW) continue to be a major issue for St Peters residents. This includes pile thumping noise from St Peters Interchange (SPI) site. Residents feel there is no relief.
- Residents of Campbell Street (east) were disturbed at 1:30am on Monday 3 September 2018 by what seemed to be construction noise. DP&E is now investigating. It may have been emergency works, but if this is the case it needs to be justified.
- Families are leaving the area, others are keeping their children home from school. The suburb is merely "collateral damage" to ensure the motorists of Western Sydney have a better drive into the City.
- The St Peters community is not happy with the mere \$15,000 fine issued by the EPA for mud-tracking from the SPI site. This fine is too low to make a difference.
- The New M5 *Community & Social Management Plan* (CSMP) was meant to be issued within 12 months of approval, but it was only issued in May 2018 and released onto the



WestConnex website on 16 August 2018. The CSMP includes incorrect information, stating that Erskineville Station is the closest railway station to St Peters. This is “insulting”.

- Forum members enquired about the recent site briefing Council and DP&E staff undertook with New M5 project staff, which included a walk of Campbell Street. Was there any discussion about the proposed carpark? There is a fear by some members of the community that the car park will become a turning circle for local residents. The community wants more greenspace, not car parks.

Refer to Action Items 1 - 2 below.

Stage 3 update report

- Council was asked if subsidence was assessed in the Stage 3 *Construction Environment Management Plan* (CEMP), and whether this would be monitored. Strathfield North is battling SMC over subsidence issues, which are being ignored by SMC. In the Stage 3 *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS), it states that it is likely there will be significant subsidence around the Rozelle Interchange. Subsidence is caused by moisture loss in the clay due to vibration and water table movement.
- A WCLF community member provided copies of receipts for the April 2018 WestConnex rally in King George Park organised by Rozelle Against WestConnex (RAW), seeking that Council reimburse this expenditure. It was explained by Council staff that such reimbursement would require a council resolution.
- Community consultation has commenced for the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) and Beach Link - although so far, the only sessions that have been convened have been on the north side of the harbour. Council will include notification of forthcoming sessions in the Inner West Council area via the WestConnex Weekly Update as information becomes available.
- Council staff explained that they had recently met with RMS staff, who gave a briefing on Stage 3 Modification 1. Key components of the modification are: the Northcote Street civil site (C3a) would become a civil and tunnel site, not just a civil site as was previously proposed; there would be two spoil haulage routes to/from the Northcote Street site – one using the existing Dobroyd Parade G-loop, the other an ‘overflow’ route using Parramatta Road, Wattle Street, Ramsay Street, Fairlight Street, Great North Road and returning to Parramatta Road; the Parramatta Road West and East construction sites (C1b and C3b) would be used as civil sites, with no tunnelling to occur at these sites; a temporary pedestrian walkway connection above Parramatta Road would be constructed to connect the Parramatta Road East and West sites for use by project staff during the construction phase; the Darley Road civil and tunnel site (C4) would be removed from the project, with no construction or permanent infrastructure at this location as was previously proposed; and relocation of an operational water treatment facility from Darley Road to the SPI site.
- Council staff advised the modification will be publicly notified from 12 to 26 September 2018. Modification documents will be available at Council’s three services centres and Haberfield, St Peters and Balmain libraries.
- Council staff advised the Inner West Mayor was on Channel 9 News on 5 September 2018 speaking about the cumulative truck traffic issues in the area around Victoria Road, Rozelle.
- Community members stated that truck movements in local streets should not be allowed (particularly around south-west Rozelle) as these are local roads. Council needs to implement ‘no truck’ zones on a number of streets, including Lilyfield Road and Darley Road. Council staff stated that conditions of approval would prevent trucks using any road

other than those defined by the approval. Community members requested that this matter be raised with Council's traffic committee.

- A community member stated that Francis Street, Hubert Street, William Street and James Street in Leichhardt are already experiencing increases in heavy vehicle usage particularly, at night.

Refer to Action Items 3-4 below.

Item 3: Office of Environment & Heritage

A presentation was made by the Director Climate & Atmospheric Science, Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH). The presentation covered the following areas: principles for regional air quality monitoring; new NSW monitoring commitments; national air quality standards and reporting against the national environmental protections measures (NEPMs); air quality trends – carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, photochemical smog (ozone), PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}; and the need to be aware of impacts of heatwaves, drought and bushfire/hazard reduction burning on air quality monitoring data.

The presentation was sent by email to all WCLF members on 14 September 2018.

It was determined that the report be received and noted.

Item 4: EPA update

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

Stage 1 (M4 East)

- EPA has responded twice to reports of oil in Iron Cove Creek, but found there was no connection to WestConnex.
- A stockpile of construction rubbish was creating dust. EPA inspectors were in the area and instructed the project to stabilise the mound.

Stage 2 (New M5)

- The project was issued with a \$15,000 fine for mud tracking from the SPI site.
- Dust remains a constant issue due to the dry conditions. EPA staff met with New M5 project staff to instruct them to engage an independent dust expert and undertake an audit of current dust management practices. This is expected to be completed by 21 September 2018 and recommendations will need to be implemented.
- EPA is aware of the Campbell Street (east) noise complaint that was made on 3 September 2018 (described above in these minutes), and EPA staff are investigating.
- EPA will be licencing the stack emissions. There will be monitoring that will show actual diesel emission levels from the stacks.

Item 5: DP&E compliance update

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

- RMS approved the over-height detector infrastructure in Haberfield and Ashfield through a consistency assessment.
- The carpark being constructed on Campbell Street in St Peters was also approved through a consistency assessment by RMS.
- DP&E staff are not aware of the approval status of the New M5 CSMP, but are aware that M4 East has applied for an extension of time to prepare the CSMP.
- Forum members were advised that DP&E receives quarterly reports about the operation of motorway tunnels (such as the Lane Cove Tunnel), and these reports are reviewed by DP&E.
- The DP&E compliance team recently met with Transport for NSW, RMS and Stage 3A contractors to discuss the tracking/monitoring of trucks. Community monitoring will still play an important role in the compliance process, as officers can't be in all areas at all times. It will be made easier by project trucks displaying clear identification.
- Stage 3A contractors have indicated a construction commencement date of 30 November 2018.

Item 6: Other Business

- Council staff advised that the engineer position within the WestConnex Unit has been recently advertised, and a replacement will be advised as soon as possible.

Summary of actionable items

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

Stage 1 actions

1. Council to contact RMS and find out why geo-technical investigations are occurring at the Muirs site on Parramatta Road, Ashfield.

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

2. Council to contact DP&E to see if the CSMP for New M5 is approved.

Current situation: Council staff have forward this request to DP&E and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

Stage 3 actions

3. Council to contact RMS and ask if subsidence has been addressed as part of the EIS.

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

4. Council to investigate the issue of restricting truck access in south-west Rozelle.

Current situation: Council is investigating this item with the traffic services team and the response will be reported to a future WCLF meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12:53pm.

Next meeting: **Thursday 4 October 2018, 10:00am to 12:30pm**
Level 6 meeting rooms 1 & 2
Ashfield Service Centre
260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield