7 December 2016

The Hon. Duncan Gay MLC
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Alexandria to Moore Park Connectivity Upgrade

I write to object to proposed changes to roads between Alexandria and Moore Park aimed at providing more road space for private vehicles.

While I support work to improve pedestrian and cyclist transport, they are minor parts of these proposals, with the focus instead on widening roads and intersections, and introducing clearways.

The proposal to widen South Dowling Street between Cleveland and Dacey streets is of great concern. It is unclear how this could occur without loss of Moore Park land and trees. It also appears that the proposed Alison Road and Anzac Parade intersection upgrade would result in encroachments on Moore Park.

We cannot afford to lose another slice of Moore Park: green open space was removed for the Eastern Distributor, light rail, busway and Tibby Cotter Bridge. Adjacent residential populations are soaring with corresponding increases in demand for public green open space and the government needs to expand not diminish grasslands for passive recreation. Reducing the size of the parklands will significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of inner city populations.

Clearways and the widening of roads and intersections to create new lanes for traffic will encourage private vehicle use, leading to increased traffic congestion while resulting in air and noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is an outrage that these changes are clearly being proposed to deal with new traffic spilling into the inner city from the WestConnex project, particularly when the government consistently promised the community that the local roads network would be able to accommodate the additional cars arriving in the inner city from the St Peter’s interchange and that the project would benefit the inner city by removing surface traffic.

These changes should be included in the already overblown budget for the WestConnex project.
These proposals are nothing more than short term solutions to traffic congestion that will erode inner city amenity and liveability at the same time that apartment populations increase; what we need is a whole-of-government approach that includes roads, public transport, environment and planning.

I strongly oppose any widening of South Dowling Street and any loss of open green space from Moore Park to additional roads and I believe that the community will also object to this proposal.

Please abandon proposals to widen roads and introduce clearways, work with other agencies to address traffic congestion without impacting on amenity and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney