



PEOPLES WESTCONNEX INQUIRY

NSW PARLIAMENT, JUBILEE ROOM - Friday 6 May, 10am – 2pm

Session 1: Liveable Cities - WestConnex impacts on our suburbs and city

Jenny Green, Councillor, City of Sydney reading statement from City of Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover Moore

Thanks very much, Jenny, and thanks again for organising today's event and thank you very much to the panel and, of course, everyone here this morning.

Look, as you probably know, the Clover Moore Independent team has been opposed to WestConnex since its inception and we have been working hard for over a year now to try and stop this absolute monstrosity. There will be more news after the next Council meeting, we hope, so let me read this short note from the Lord Mayor, who unfortunately couldn't be here today:

"I am sorry I can't be here this morning and I commend Jenny Leong for organising this important People's Inquiry into WestConnex. It's Australia's largest transport infrastructure project with a cost of \$16.8 billion and rising, yet the government has not released a final Business Case for a project which is being underwritten by the taxpayer. Because of the lack of transparency and public information, the City of Sydney commissioned SGS Economics and Planning to review the project. SGS found that WestConnex does not meet its stated objectives and confirmed the concerns raised by the New South Wales Auditor-General and Infrastructure Australia about the lack of adequate governance and quality assurance associated with the project's development. Despite this, construction of some stages has started and plans for future stages are proceeding.

The refusal of the government to adequately address the thousands of submissions made to the Environmental Impact Statements for different stages of WestConnex is also shocking. Despite identifying serious deficiencies in the project, the submissions have been ignored. It demonstrates the extent to which the Planning system is a rubber stamp, when it comes to massive projects being promoted by vested interests.

I recently wrote to the Prime Minister calling on him to stop on this destructive project. Copies of my letter are available for you today and have also been sent to the New South Wales government, state and federal opposition and the Greater Sydney Commission. WestConnex is a Tony Abbott project, who had an ideological opposition to public transport and did not have an urban policy. Now he's gone, it must be stopped."



So that's the message from Clover, and thank you again. Just briefly, I met with some WestConnex people—the people on the St Peters side—yesterday morning, and look, really urge everyone to continue to get involved. I know it's really hard for volunteers to stay the course—there are small groups that are doing a lot of the work—and so anything that we can do to enhance and increase the number of volunteers and the people working on these projects, is to be commended and, I guess, rally the troops.

We're now going to involve Glebe and Rozelle, so we all need to come together and form a really, really strong group, and the mass of resistance to this project.

As I mentioned, there will be more announcements at the next Council meeting, provided things are approved at that, we'll have more news to hand following that meeting, so thank you again.