



Leichhardt Against WestCONnex

LAW - Leichhardt Against
WestCONnex

Email: lawactiongroup@gmail.com

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Media Release : Leichhardt Residents and Inner West Council Reject both M4-M5 'Dive' sites

Leichhardt Against WestCONnex (LAW) condemns **both** sites nominated by the Sydney Motorway Corporation (SMC) as possible 'dive' sites for the tollway's M4-M5 Link as "completely unsuitable".

On Friday 24th February the SMC announced that it plans to use either the new Dan Murphy's site at 7 Darley Road, Leichhardt or the heritage tramshed site at 29 Derbyshire Road next to the Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus, as a WestConnex midpoint tunnelling site.

"When we met with WestConnex's Project Director for the M4-M5 link Peter Jones last November, he told us that he would 'walk away' from the Darley Road site if it was found to be unsuitable," said LAW spokesperson Jennifer Aaron.

The Inner West Council's independent engineer has since found both sites to be unsuitable and the Council has categorically rejected them as appropriate locations for a mid-point tunnelling site. "We believe that Mr Jones should listen to the experts, the Council and the community - and walk away from any further consideration both sites," Ms Aaron states.

"The Darley Road site is a known traffic blackspot with dozens of serious accidents, including two fatalities over a five year period. It is also highly congested and serves as a critical access point for commuters onto or across the City West Link. Bringing over 200 WestConnex trucks a day to this location will be disastrous for the community.

"The SMC has faced huge community opposition to the Darley Road site for many months. By suggesting an alternative site next to the school, the SMC is attempting to divide opposition and direct attention from the serious issues with Darley Road. Their plan is clearly to make residents feel they have no choice but to accept a construction site at Darley Road. Leichhardt won't accept a dive site by our schools and we won't accept years of traffic gridlock and destruction of our suburb either."

"Our opposition to both of these sites is shared by the Inner West Council and their strategic traffic planners. And we share the Council's belief that there are no appropriate dive site locations in densely populated Leichhardt or Lilyfield. We therefore call on Mr Jones to go back to the drawing board.

"If the WestConnex M4-M5 link cannot be delivered on time and on budget without these sites, Premier Gladys Berejiklian needs to step in and call a halt to this ill-planned tollway. As taxpayers, we want proper planning and value for money outcomes - and WestConnex is not stacking up," said Ms Aaron.

For more information contact LAW spokesperson Jennifer Aaron on 0418 440 653 or Catherine Gemmell on 0417 293 250.