

ASHFIELD COUNCIL

DOCUMENTS TABLED AT ORDINARY MEETING - 9 FEBRUARY 2016

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| MM4/2016 WESTCONNEX PROJECT | 1 |

MAYORAL MINUTE

WESTCONNEX PROJECT

The Sydney Motorway Corporation who have responsibility for the WestConnex project are continuing to proceed with work on the project in denial of the issues raised and despite the absence of planning approval.

Council provided a very detailed response to the WestConnex M4 EIS with an expectation that the Planning approval process would give due consideration to the Ashfield Council submission and the 4800 other submissions.

Ashfield Council continues to receive documents and plans with requests for comments in unrealistic time frames limiting any community participation and contrary to the spirit of the legislation regarding consultation.

The WestConnex M4 East is now under assessment by the Department of Planning.

It is clear to this point that there has been a failure to:

- acknowledge the issues identified in Ashfield Council's considered and detailed submission
- allow adequate time frames for response by council staff

and contrary to the normal process unauthorised work is being carried out in a range of sites but, particularly in Reg Coady Reserve.

Further, the release of the Draft Construction Management Plans during the EIS consultation period and prior to planning approval adds to the impression that the process lacks objectivity, and no doubt is a failure in community consultation

The Ashfield community has not been heard.

The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, Section 57 clauses (5) to (8) allow for a person making a submission to request a public inquiry.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

WESTCONNEX PROJECT

Accordingly, I move that:

- 1/5 Ashfield Council call on the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment for a public hearing on the poor quality of the community consultation related to the M4 East EIS. We note that Section 57 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 allows for such a hearing.
- 2/5 Withdraw approval for any test drilling or preparatory works on Reg Coady Reserve for WestConnex, so that the matter can be brought to the elected Council.
- 3/5 Commits to take all reasonable steps to notify the community of all test drilling or preparatory works or proposals that Council is aware of, or becomes aware of, in relation to WestConnex or related road projects.
- 4/5 Confirm that any future decisions or applications for work related to WestConnex will be brought to the elected Council for decision.
- 5/5 Confirm the right of residents to peacefully protest at Reg Coady Reserve and any other sites owned or managed by Council.



COUNCILLOR L MCKENNA OAM
Mayor