

26 October, 2016

Mr Luke Foley MP
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Western Sydney

Mr Michael Daly MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Ms Jodi McKay MP
Shadow Minister for Transport
Shadow Minister for Roads

The Hon. Penny Sharpe
Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage

Dear Mr Foley,

As each of you would appear to have portfolio responsibilities for Westconnex, I write to you seeking information about the policies of the Labor Party in regard to this project.

I'm sure you're aware that Westconnex is strongly opposed by many members of the community, in particular residents of inner city suburbs, who have expressed their concern about the economic, environmental, and infrastructure issues raised by its construction.

But it seems to me the Labor Party has been strangely silent on this issue. Why has Labor failed to express its strong opposition to this folly of the Baird Government?

The estimated \$18 billion to build Westconnex will soak up government funds that should otherwise be invested in public transport, rural and regional infrastructure, affordable housing, education, health and the environment. At a time when cities all over the world are moving away from large toll road projects in an effort to curb emissions and solve traffic congestion, no credible authority would suggest that building toll roads is the solution to cutting national greenhouse emissions.

Our Society is seriously concerned that the plan to build a motorway exit at Parramatta Road near the Arundel Street footbridge to Sydney University will lead to a massive increase in traffic congestion, slowing bus running times dramatically. The removal of the footbridge will risk the safety of students, and local residents and parents taking their children to the child care centre.

If Labor wants to offer a clear alternative to the Baird government, a policy of strong opposition to Westconnex would have wide community support. I find it hard to understand why Labor has not already adopted this policy.

I will pass on your responses to our next management committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Hogan
President