

15/10/17

Director, Transport Assessments Planning Services  
Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Sir /Madam

Application No SS1 7485 Submission

The Glebe Society is a long-established community group representing the interests of nearly 400 members in Glebe and Forest Lodge. We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on the M4-M5 Stage 3 Environmental Impact Statement. The Glebe Society objects to the M4-M5 Stage 3 project ("the project ") for the following reasons:

- The project will have an adverse impact on inner city transport, and will direct more traffic onto the streets in the inner west of Sydney, including Glebe and Forest Lodge. Traffic modelling shows that the Anzac Bridge will have 60% more traffic by 2033 as a result of the project and there will be severe traffic levels and increased congestion on Johnson Street and The Crescent. There is forecast to be major impacts on bus travel times and reliability.
- The project does not meet the primary objective of providing a direct motorway connection between Western Sydney and Sydney Airport and Port.
- The project is the wrong strategy to meet the transport needs of Sydney. We note the alternatives to the WestConnex project that were initially considered. We consider that a more effective and less wasteful strategy would be to invest in lower cost alternatives; in particular, in public transport, rail freight improvements and demand management.
- The traffic modelling and forecasting underlying the project appear to be flawed.
- The underlying assumptions that justify the project are doubtful; in particular that congestion will continue to worsen as the population in Sydney increases. There are a number of reasons why this assumption may be false, including the changing pattern in the use of motor vehicles, the increased preference for high density living close to places of work, the sharing economy, the growth of services such as Uber and GoGet and the potential impact of electric and driverless cars.
- The Environmental Impact Statement is a strategy only document which does not commit to any design and does not address local impacts of the project. The final design, cost and implementation of the project will be made by the private sector owners of the Sydney Motorway Corporation and not by the Government. This is not acceptable.

Yours sincerely

Murray Jewell  
For The Glebe Society