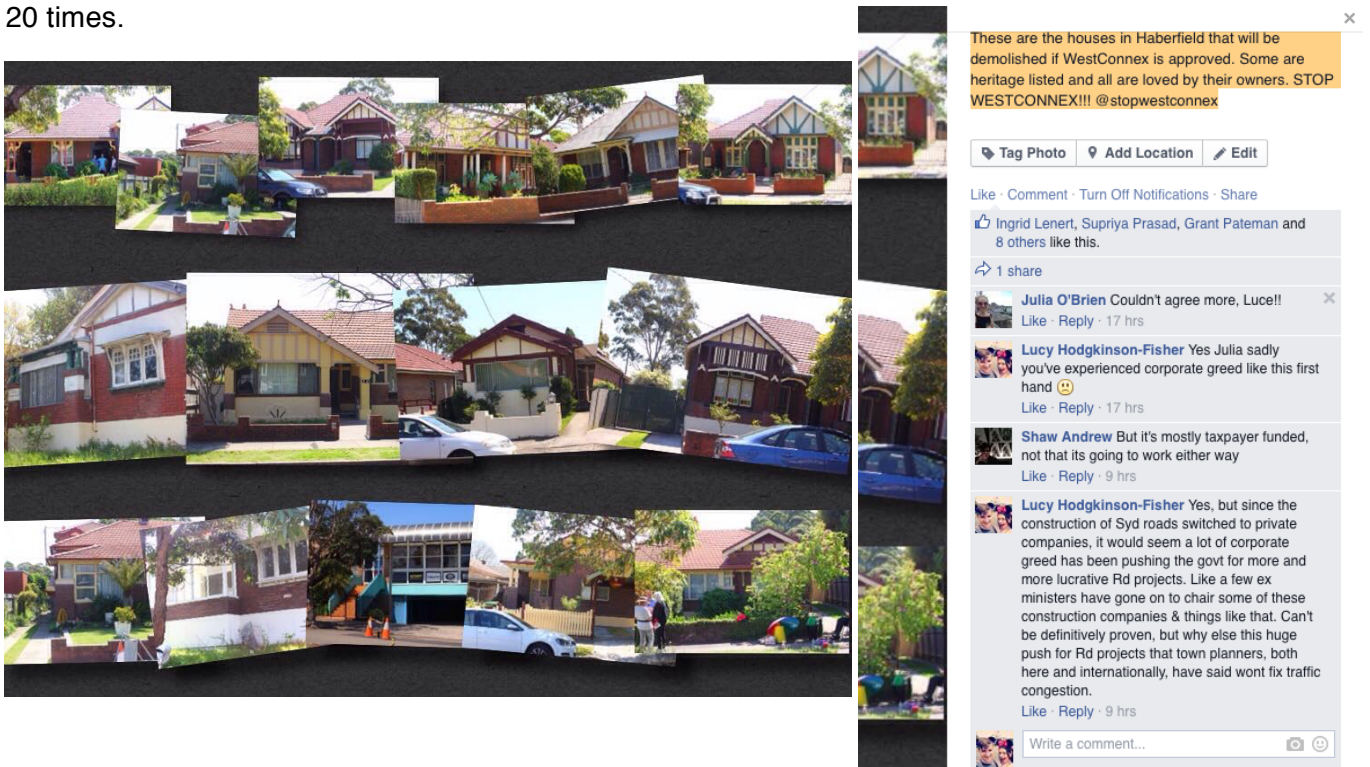


HSTY3902 Project Proposal and Bibliography
Student no. 310216222

Community Service:

I have been doing my community work with the No West Connex action group, and a subsidiary group, Ashfield West Connex Action Group (AWC). I started my community service by attending events advertised on the no West Connex Facebook page. On the 30th of September I attended a sit-in at the site of some initial geotechnical drilling for West Connex on Walker Ave in Haberfield. There I met Sharon Laura, a seasoned campaigner for No West Connex who advised that I take pictures with my digital SLR camera, post to social media and educate myself for my community service. I took pictures of every house on the street that was set for demolition and created a collage to be posted on Facebook, as many members lacked these social media skills. The finished product was created using Photo Grid - Collage Maker & Photo Editor App and is attached below. It has been uploaded to the No West Connex Facebook page, and has been shared roughly 20 times.



Also, my photo led to some discussion on my own page, which is what Sharon was hoping for. I also helped with some other menial tasks such as driving elderly protestors home.

The next meeting I attended was on the 3rd of October and was a community picket at the Alexandria Landfill on Albert St in St Peters. I helped to hold no West Connex placards to passing motorists and listened to various speakers such as Green senator Lee Rhiannon, Jenny Leung, Sharon Laura and Wendy Bacon, amongst others. Here I was again asked to take pictures and videos which I forwarded to various group members. I then attended a West Connex community consultation at the Canada Bay Club on the 6th of October. Here, Sharon directed me to question the West Connex representatives on air pollution, human impact and other effects of the road. Finally, I attended a blocking of drilling on Allum St in Haberfield, again being manned by Sharon, where I again took pictures.

Sharon Laura: m. 0417 022 553, email: slaurar@gmail.com (Will be in the US from 19th Oct - 5th Nov. Won't have reliable access to email so may be delayed in her reply).

Wendy Bacon: wendybacon1@gmail.com

Major project:

My project will detail the history of a planned extension of the F6 motorway which would have stretched from the Anzac bridge to Randwick and through my local area of Enmore/Newtown in 2005/06. Commonly referred to as the Johnston's Creek Extension, the road was never officially confirmed by the Labor government, but road planners such as Michelle Zeibots had no doubt that they would build the extension to funnel traffic off the newly built M4 road. A road reservation had existed along the Johnston's Creek Corridor since the 1940s and the RTA had gradually been buying houses along Liberty St and Edgeware road, presumably to make way for the 4 lane highway. The road would have meant the demolition of numerous houses and businesses. Still basing their campaign on the town planning projections of Ms Zeibots, activists and local residents launched a campaign to stop the road, including door-knocking and creating a two 4-page newspapers about the impact of the road.

My project will largely focus on how this campaign was run, the opposition they received from Labor and how they were ultimately successful. I have compiled many first hand-accounts and primary source documents of this period from Michelle Zeibots, Lee Rhiannon, Colin Hessey and Gavin Gateby. I have attempted to contact Carmel Tebbutt, who was the Labor member for Marrickville at the time and ultimately responsible for lifting the reservation, but have so far been unsuccessful.

The overarching question I hope to answer in my project is; historically, have road projects in inner city Sydney been stopped by community action groups? This question appears to be pertinent in the community as, according to my community service and other AWC member, the most common comment from locals concerning West Connex is "What hope do residents really have to stop this road?". The leader of the No West Connex group, Matt Hounsel, informed me that Sydney has a long history of community groups successfully stopping road developments. I will allude to these histories, such as Jack Mundy's battle to save the historic Rocks in Sydney, in my project.

The final section of my book will be a compilation of the individual histories of residents who may have either lived through the threat of demolition or have since found a home in the area. Particularly I hope to interview the owners of long standing Lebanese restaurant Emma's on Liberty and the owners of the heritage Queens Building on Liberty street, both of which would have been demolished. I will begin the section with a quote from West Connex member Wendy Bacon who stated in a speech at the community picket in St Peters; "These massive diagrams of interchangers and roads... what it completely misses is the impact on people. On real lives."

I'm planning to present my project as a coffee table book as I'll be including many photos, primary sources and maps. Furthermore, coffee table books reflect Inner West cafe culture, and I'm planning to distribute the books around local cafes, community centres and AWC members. I've been recommended the name of a few companies that will enable me to cheaply self-publish and print my book. I've also considered making a short video detailing the battle for the Johnston's Creek extension to put on the No West Connex Facebook page.

My project will hopefully be useful for the No West Connex campaign as it can serve as a reminder that community action groups can take on the government and large corporations and win. Furthermore, I hope to educate Inner West residents on how their area has been tirelessly defended by community groups and individuals who they may never have heard of. I particularly want to include the story of Mary-Jane Gleeson who was instrumental in stopping the Johnston's Creek extension but sadly died from melanoma in 2007.

Bibliography:

Primary Sources:

Botany Bay Port and Environmental Inquiry, *Report of the Botany Bay Port and Environmental Inquiry*, 1977.

Demonstrates how planners believed the Johnston's Creek extension would be a link between the F6, F4 and F3 and allow better access for trucks into Mascot, St Peters and Port Botany. For these reasons the Johnston's Creek extension was nick-named the "Marrickville Truck Tunnel". This document highlights another piece of the history surrounding the Johnston's Creek Extension.

Campbell, Fiona, Marrickville Transport Action Group, *Update on Johnstons Creek Extension/Campbell Street Corridor*, Press Release, 24th of March 2006.

This press release informed residents that the campaign against the Johnston's Creek Extension had been successful. It also states how, despite the win, the reservation along Campbell St still remains intact and offers strategies to keep fighting against it. Furthermore, the media release includes a thank-you letter to Carmel Tebbutt for lifting the reservation. This was significant as there had been much animosity between the Marrickville Transport Action Group and Tebbutt throughout campaign.

EcoTransit News, *Government Motorway Plans Threaten Inner West*, Newspaper, No.2, September 2005.

EcoTransit News, *Inner City Motorway plans threaten Eastern Suburbs*, Newspaper, No. 1, September 2005.

These two EcoTransit newspapers were instrumental in the campaign against the Johnston's Creek Extension. A group of 10 volunteers including Colin Hessey and Fiona Campbell distributed 60 000 in Randwick and 40 000 in Marrickville/Newtown. From my interview Hessey he remembered that residents were angry and shocked to hear that their homes could be in danger. These newspapers contained detailed maps created by planner Michelle Zeibots and plans for possible alternatives, such as the Light Rail.

Gateby, Gavin, *Sydney Morning Herald, Battler Saved Houses, Pubs - and the Family Rooster; Obituary of Mary Jane Gleeson*, 5th of October 2007.

Mary Jane Gleeson played a crucial role in the success of the campaign. According to Zeibots, Gleeson spent an entire week sifting through the documents that the Greens had called for regarding the Johnston's Creek Extension. She found the one email from the RTA that confirmed that Labor had been lying and that the Johnston's Creek Extension was underway. Arguably, as a result of Gleeson finding this email, Tebbutt was now under increasing pressure from her electorate to raise the reservation. Tragically, Gleeson died suddenly in 2007 without many in the inner-west community knowing the role she played in protecting their homes.

Lee Rhiannon, Greens MLC, *Impact of the F6 Proposal on the Inner West*, Media briefing note for the Inner West Courier, 29th of June 2005.

Lee Rhiannon, *Tebbutt Mislead Voters on Inner West Road Reservation Lifted Today*, Greens Media, 17th of March 2006.

Here Rhiannon celebrates the lifting of the Johnston's Creek Extension reservations ben lifted, but claims that Tebbutt deliberately mislead voters when she publicly announced that the road wasn't being built. Rhiannon also referred to "secret papers" that the Greens forced the government to release. When I suppose to Rhainnon about the event, she couldn't remember exactly what those paper were, but my informed guess is that they contained the RTA e-mail that confirmed the road project.

Obronschka, Jo, Green Left Weekly, *Residents Say No to more Motorways and Traffic*, 17th November 1993.

Roosendaal, Eric, Minister for Roads, *Johnstons Creek Corridor Abandoned*, Media Release, 17th of March 2006.

This media statement announces that the Johnston's Creek Extension plan has been abandoned by the State government. It posits Carmel Tebbutt as responsible for the stopping of the road. Arguably, Tebbutt only acted under the increasing political pressure from EcoTransit and Marrickville Transport Action Group.

Tebbutt, Carmel, Member for Marrickville, *Letter to Marrickville Transport Action Group*, 24 November 2005.

This letter from Tebbutt criticises the Marrickville Transport Action Group of fear mongering and clinging the the NSW Government had no plans to develop the Johnston's Creek Extension. This statement was proven incorrect by an email found by Mary Jane Gleeson from the RTA referring to the Johnston's Creek Extension. Zeibot believes that perhaps Tebbutt herself wasn't even aware of the project. If I can get in contact with her, I'll ask Tebbutt whether she was aware of the road project prior to that e-mail being revealed.

The Australian Greens, *Sartor Should Show His Hand - F6 Supporter or not?*, Media Release, 16th of March 2005.

This media release from Rhiannon is further evidence of Labor refusing to confirm or deny plans for the construction of Johnston's Creek Extension.

The Australian Greens, *Cost Keeps F6 Freeway Demolition Squad on Alert*, Media Release, 23rd March 2005.

Zeibots, Michelle and Hessey, Colin, *Do We Want an F6 Motorway Fiasco?* Leaflet, March 2005.

Zeibots, Michelle, EcoTransit, *Hundreds of Homes Face Bulldozers*, Leaflet, 15th of March 2005.

Secondary Sources:

Burgmann, Meredith and Burgmann, Verity, *Green Bans, Red Union: Environmental Activism and the New South Wales Builders Labourers' Federation*, UNSW Press, 1998.

Department of Main Roads, *The Roadmakers: A History of Main Roads in NSW*, 1976.

This book provides background into the County of Cumberland 1945 Planning Scheme, which was the first comprehensive planning initiative in NSW. The plan included a number of green belts and also motorways. One of the routes ear-marked for a motorway in the plan was along the Johnston's Creek Extension.

Hutton, Drew and Connors, Libby, *History of the Australian Environment Movement*, Cambridge University Press, 1999.

I'm planning to incorporate this and Burgmann and Burgamnn's book into my project so to include the history of the activist movement in Sydney. These books discuss how there was a shift in rational for activist from saving nature for natures sake, to incorporating town planning and other, more scientific reasons for their activism. Both books also include histories on Jack Mundy's battle to save Sydney's the Rocks, which was a landmark win in Sydney activism.

Prescott, Tony, "Warringah Transport Corridor Inquiry", *ET (Electric Traction)* 40, no. 7. (July 1985), pp. 99 - 103.

Demonstrates how there were tentative plans to create a motorway along the Johnston's Creek extension in the 1980s. These plans did not eventuate.

Spearritt, Peter, *Sydney's Century: A History*, UNSW Press, 2000.

I have gotten inspiration from the lay-out of this book as it contains many pictures and maps, making it engaging to read. Also I plan to incorporate it's history on how Sydney's planning became car centric. Arguably many of these philosophies are still governing road makers in contemporary Sydney.