

Making Suburbs Unsafe For Kids

The M4 East threatens the health and safety of children in local schools, playgrounds and childcare centres.

Huge roadways will divide suburbs. Residential streets like Bland, Dalhousie, Johnston and Styles Sts will experience significant increases in traffic.

Ultimately the RTA will have to install overhead bridges near schools to ensure children can get to school without disrupting traffic.

Pollution from extra trucks and cars using the M4 East will be discharged straight from the portals and emission stacks.



Emission stack nestled near Sydney homes

To minimise costs, the RTA is most likely to locate emission stacks on public land near where our children play. Anywhere within two kilometres of a stack is part of a "strike zone" which gets direct hits from plumes of concentrated pollution that come down to ground level. This pollution causes cancer, asthma and other respiratory illnesses. There is no evidence that pumping the emissions out of a stack or a tunnel exit reduces the risk to the community. Federal Government research now shows that more people die, in Sydney, from illnesses caused by car emissions, than from car accidents.

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Five years ago the RTA promised to filter all tunnels, but they have never delivered, and they now dispute the benefits of filtration. Even if they did it would only capture some particulates, and would not eliminate toxic gases and chemicals like benzene and fuel additives, or prevent untreated emissions being discharged into the community "when necessary".

Needless to say, emissions from those extra vehicles on surface roads go straight into the community unfiltered! In any case, the increase in total traffic would mean that the total pollution levels would also increase.

Families in Leichhardt and Ashfield Council areas are most at risk as the RTA is also planning another motorway from Mascot to Summer Hill, as well as widening the existing M4. These residents could find themselves wedged between converging traffic from three motorways as well as the existing Parramatta Road and City West Link traffic.

Health Risks at a Glance

Children and the elderly are the most at risk.

Asthma caused by tiny particulates.

Cardio-pulmonary disease caused by tiny particulates .

Cancer caused by toxins such as benzene and dioxins

Brain damage and developmental disabilities caused by lead and other additives in petrol.

Emphysema and respiratory illnesses caused by nitrogen oxides and particulates.

Your Suburb How will it be affected?

Glebe

Increased traffic diverting along Pyrmont Bridge Rd, The Crescent and Ross St to avoid the Anzac Bridge and City West Link bottlenecks. The Crescent probably widened.

Ashfield

Massive exits and increase in traffic along Parramatta Rd. Increased traffic on Bland and Sloane Sts, and Liverpool Rd. Up to 4 possible emission stacks in 500-metre radius.

Five Dock/Canada Bay

Possible mid-tunnel entry point on Parramatta Rd. Huge increases in traffic on Lyons Rd and Lyons Rd West, especially trucks and buses. Potential emission stack.

Burwood

Potential for increased traffic accessing tunnel through possible mid-tunnel entry point in Parramatta Rd.

Haberfield

Site of interchange between M4 East, Parramatta Rd and Mascot motorway. Exits on Dobroyd Pde and Parramatta Rd. Up to 3 possible emission stacks. Bay Run and Robson Park destroyed by portals.

Leichhardt

Rat-running along Styles, Marion, Norton, and Catherine Sts to avoid tunnel congestion. Increased traffic on Balmain Road. 40 percent more peak-hour traffic on Parramatta Rd. Proposed stack site within 500m.

Lilyfield/Rozelle

Potential tunnel exit and stack site. Increased traffic on Darling St to City West Link. Lilyfield Rd may eventually be re-opened to cope with through traffic and fly-over could be needed to connect the City West Link to the Anzac Bridge.

Croydon

Potential emission stack site. Additional traffic using Georges River Rd, Liverpool Rd and Croydon Ave - especially if proposed mid-tunnel entry point is constructed on Parramatta Rd.

Balmain

Increased congestion on Victoria Road, City West Link and Anzac Bridge. Flyover may be required to avoid congestion at this intersection. Limited access to Victoria Road from Robert St.

See our map on page 2 for a better picture of what is being considered!



Health Warning

Residents suffering the ill-effects of M5 East emissions found it difficult to substantiate their claims because they could not provide evidence about their health before and after the motorway opened. Residents should obtain their own independent medical assessment now if they are worried about potential health effects.