



## POSITION PAPER

### WESTCONNEX HERITAGE IMPACTS

#### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF HABERFIELD

In 1981 the Haberfield Urban Conservation Area was listed on the National Trust Register for its historic significance as the prototype for the twentieth century Australian garden suburb. It departed from the denser pattern of 19th century development and is renowned for the visual and townscape significance of its fine houses, gardens and tree-planted streets.

Haberfield was Australia's first comprehensively planned and developed garden suburb, establishing a model for Australia's suburban development in the twentieth century. Astutely conceived and promoted by Richard Stanton, a Summer Hill real estate agent and former Mayor of Ashfield, Haberfield comprised individually designed, locally adapted Queen Anne style houses, set along tree lined streets, which were the antithesis of the unhealthy crowded inner city suburbs. Haberfield's significance derives from its successful adaptation of the garden suburb idea and the architectural quality of its houses related in style and character, but carefully individualised in form and detail.

Through comprehensive marketing and covenants on the titles to the sites, A remarkably harmonious and homogeneous, development was achieved. Haberfield was Australia's first successful planned 'model suburb', embodying the then-evolving international garden suburb principles. Begun at the time of Federation in 1901, it predates British examples such as Letchworth (1904) and Hampstead (1907). This visionary social experiment was so financially successful that it helped lock in the great Australian dream of the quarter-acre suburban block with dwelling, which has dominated how Australians seek to house themselves.

#### THE THREAT POSED TO HERITAGE BY WESTCONNEX

In its October 2015 submission on the WestConnex M4 East Environmental Impact Statement the National Trust expressed its deep concern that twenty heritage listed buildings were proposed for demolition and that 64 houses within the Haberfield Conservation Area and the adjoining Powells Estate Conservation Area were to be demolished.

The National Trust lodged its objection to the WestConnex M4 East proposal because of its severe impact on Listed Heritage Items and Heritage Conservation Areas and because, in the Trust's view, it diverts much needed public and private investment away from public transport development which could move large numbers of people more effectively and with much less adverse heritage impact.

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

The National Trust calls for a halt to the WestConnex development. WestConnex has been shown to have minimal time-saving advantages for motorists at a huge cost in dollars terms and in its damage to the historic environment. At \$30 billion total cost and increasing, this money could be far better spent on public transport which would more effectively and efficiently reduce road congestion.

Australia's first historic garden suburb should not be subject to the adverse impacts of the WestConnex Motorway.

#### ACTION TO CONSERVE THE HERITAGE OF HABERFIELD

The Trust calls on its members and the concerned public to contact the NSW Minister for Roads and the Premier supporting the Trust's position, calling for an end to the construction of the WestConnex Motorway and the re-allocation of these construction funds to establish an upgraded public transport system between Sydney and Parramatta.