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Naomi Moss
Senior Planner
Transport Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

By email: naomi.moss@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Naomi

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Modification Request for WestConnex New M5 SSI 7688 (MOD 6).

The City of Sydney (the City) does not agree to any smaller tree litre sizes for planting in the City's streets or in Sydney Park. We consider 75 litres to be a small tree and note that our standard is 100 litres. The majority of the street trees and trees within the park were mature and we require large size trees for replacement especially on the boundary. Accordingly any trees in the City's streets or parks must remain at 75 litres or more as has been previously agreed.

In relation to the former Alexandria Landfill (now St Peters Interchange), the City does, however, understand the issues WestConnex has with some planting sizes and access, especially on steep slopes. The City is therefore comfortable with smaller pot sizes being used in this environment only.

The City supports the increase in net planting of trees. However, with the reduction in the size of our parkland and open space as a consequence of WestConnex, we believe this will be difficult to achieve. We also note that the City may have capacity issues in relation to watering these mature trees following handover from RMS. Sydney Park is a high priority site and significant maintenance will be required (regardless of the pot sizes) to help these plants become well established well after the defects liability period and handover.

The City contests the argument that smaller pot sizes grow better; this is incorrect. A large tree grown to the Natspec specification or Australian Standard achieves the same, if not better results. We note that the species diversity, overall design and quality (stock, planting and maintenance) is what achieves the actual long term 'interest' and 'robust' urban design outcome – not the planting of smaller plants the first few years as they try to establish.

Finally, we note with concern that the worst case scenario of 6,053 tree removals has almost been realised, with 6,000 tree removals, only 53 trees less than the worst case scenario. The statement at *2.0 Tree Removals*, that the retention of these 53 trees

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represents a 'significant effort on the part of RMS and the Joint Venture to minimise impacts to high retention value trees' is unnoteworthy when the 53 trees 'saved' represents less than 1% of the total trees approved for removal.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about the City's submission, please contact Elise Webster, Manager Transport Major Projects on 9288 5967 or at ewebster@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sebastian Smyth
Executive Manager City Access and Transport