

Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Edward O'Donohue

Questions - Current Transport Issues:

- North East Link

The Minister for Public Transport & Minister for Roads, Terry Mulder, in a recent letter to a local resident responding to questions raised about the future of NE Link, stated that "The North East Link was not a commitment of the current Coalition Government." And that, "the future of any North East Link will be considered in a new Metropolitan Planning Strategy as announced by the State Government that will set the future shape and priorities for the development of transport and other infrastructure in Melbourne."

Does this mean the Government is still actively considering the NE Link and is a feasibility study into it being carried out? If a feasibility study is being conducted, will the Government again approach Infrastructure Australia for federal funding, as any tunnel proposal would heavily rely on this funding due to the \$6b projected cost? If the proposal were to proceed, when would residents be advised of any compulsory acquisitions?

- Metropolitan Planning Scheme

As mentioned in above letter and the recent Press Release by Planning Minister, Mathew Guy, this appears to be step in a more holistic direction in terms of its consideration of transport as part of the wider planning picture for Melbourne. It talks of consultation with stakeholders, developers and the community. Will we as part of the community, be considered as stakeholders in this process and how will consultation occur ?

- Hurstbridge Line

Mention has been made of possible duplication of the Hurstbridge rail line beyond Greensborough. Services on this line are constrained by trains having to wait for those travelling in opposite direction, meaning 20 or more minute gaps between services at some stations north of Greensborough during peak hour. Is the Government committed to duplication of the Hurstbridge line and upgrading services? If so when would this commence?

- **Doncaster Rail**

The Government has announced it will commence a study into the Doncaster to Clifton Hill Rail Link, similar to projects completed in Perth in recent years (which this group strongly supports). If a recommendation to proceed with the project comes out of current studies being undertaken, when is this likely to occur and is the Government committed to the project?

- **Rail Freight**

Given the previous government dropped the Container Rail Freight Study, will this Government reinstate this Study and the wider picture of rail freight as part of its Metropolitan Melbourne Planning Strategy?

- **Transport Authority**

Will the Government establish an overarching Transport Authority, as mentioned in the lead-up to the State election and in various press reports since? How would such an Authority work and would it be responsible for all aspects of transport planning and strategy to replace the current piecemeal, separate-silos based approach?