



**Representing one million residents as the Eastern Transport Coalition**

## **Factsheet #1: Federal funding for public transport**

Despite having one of the highest levels of urbanisation, Australia remains the only OECD nation where the Federal Government does not provide funds for sustainable transport infrastructure. This places Australia at an international disadvantage, compared to countries such as the UK and US, whose national governments invest heavily in public transport infrastructure.

The Federal Government currently funds major upgrades of roads and public transport should be eligible for similar funding, especially since it would reduce congestion and greenhouse gases.

### **Congestion – a national cost:**

The cost of congestion, through delays in delivery schedules and opportunity costs, has been estimated at \$20.4 billion annually, of which \$2.44 billion directly impacts eastern and south eastern Melbourne.

As a prominent industrial hub (contributing 40% of Melbourne's manufacturing base) it is imperative that Melbourne's eastern and south eastern suburbs are provided with an efficient and readily available public transport system to reduce overall traffic congestion.

### **Greenhouse emissions – a national cost:**

Through The Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics, it has been estimated that Eastern and south eastern Melbourne is responsible for approximately 3,230 thousand tonnes of emissions. This equates to a cost of \$3.2 billion, which will rise exponentially in future years if congestion is left unchecked.

### **Ensuring good governance:**

Whilst respective State Governments would ultimately be responsible for public transport services, Federal involvement through joint funding arrangements would ensure greater accountability in project delivery. Federal funding would therefore help ensure the efficient delivery of public transport infrastructure consistent with community expectations and ensure the honouring of State Government commitments.

*Mission Statement: The Eastern Transport Coalition will advocate for sustainable and integrated transport services in the Eastern region of Melbourne which focus on the travel needs of the community and reduce the level of car dependency*

# Eastern Transport Coalition

Greater Dandenong, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges Councils

## The Sustainable Cities Inquiry:

In September 2005, The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment And Heritage tabled its report on an inquiry into Sustainable Cities.

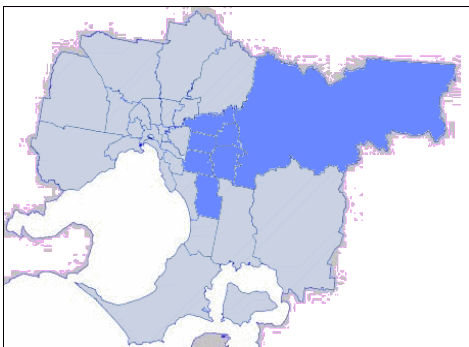
The Standing Committee's vision was for Australian cities to be vibrant and healthy – environmentally, socially and economically. The report outlined seven key recommendations relating to improving transport sustainability within Australia.

Recommendation six states that “the Australian Government significantly boost its funding commitment for public transport systems, particular light and heavy rail, in the major cities”.

## A call for action:

<b><u>Short-term:</u></b>	<b><u>Medium-term:</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Formal response to the Sustainable Cities Inquiry.</li><li>● Development of a policy framework which would facilitate Federal funding of public transport infrastructure.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Federal Government to provide funding for public transport infrastructure towards projects that improve the sustainability and international competitiveness of our cities.</li></ul>

## About the Eastern Transport Coalition:



The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) consists of Melbourne's seven eastern Metropolitan Councils and represents approximately one million residents.

The ETC advocates for sustainable and integrated transport services to reduce the level of car dependency to secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Melbourne's outer east.

## Contact details:

The Eastern Transport Coalition aims to work in partnership with Federal and State Government's to ensure the future sustainability of Eastern Melbourne.

**For further details please visit [www.etc.org.au](http://www.etc.org.au) or contact 9298 8000.**

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