



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

## **Factsheet #5: Rail to Doncaster**

The City of Manningham, with over 110,000 residents is the only municipality within Melbourne that lacks any form of rail or tram access. This places the region at a competitive disadvantage due to the lack of fixed rail infrastructure.

The existing bus services to Doncaster along the freeway has shown the high demand that exists for better public transport. The carrying capacity of the existing bus services is insufficient, resulting in severe overcrowding and the heavy congestion on the Eastern Freeway could be reduced with a rail line to Doncaster.

Doncaster Hill is a designated activity centre and includes major landowners such as Westfield Shoppingtown. Fixed rail would help facilitate the urban revitalisation of Doncaster Hill.

### **Assessing the needs of Doncaster:**

Public transport projects within Doncaster need to be prioritised based on the potential to support the development of Doncaster Hill and to provide overall public transport improvements.

In this regard it would be both feasible and desirable to extend the current tram terminus of the route 48 from North Balwyn to Doncaster Hill. The tram will spur development and allow for the rerouting of bus services that duplicate the tram, alleviating some of the existing overcrowding.

In the longer term, heavy-rail will be required along the Eastern Freeway to ensure efficient and competitive journey times to CBD bound destinations.

### **Bus services:**

Only rail infrastructure will be able to deliver the frequency and reliability of services required to increase public transport modal share. While projects such as the Doncaster Rapid Transit are welcomed, it needs to be seen as an incremental step to delivery of fixed rail infrastructure.

*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 case for rail:

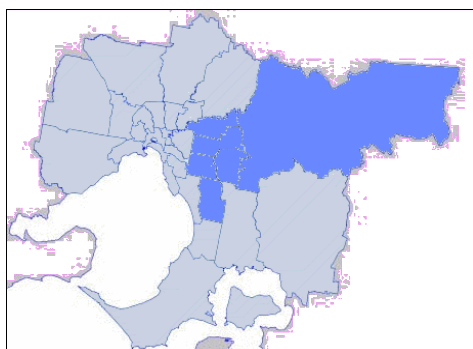
Based upon public transport modal share data, it is clear that existing services within Doncaster and Manningham are not meeting expectations. Modal share in Manningham is significantly lower than neighbouring municipalities.

	Manningham	Banyule	Whitehorse	Melbourne average
Public transport modal share	7.3%	10.6%	11.6%	9%
Modes available	Bus only	Bus, trains	Bus, trams, trains	

### A call for action:

<b><u>Short-term:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Feasibility study on extending tram route 48 from North Balwyn to Doncaster Hill</li><li>● Feasibility study into heavy-rail along the Eastern Freeway</li></ul>	<b><u>Medium-term:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Extension of tram route 48 from North Balwyn to Doncaster Hill</li><li>● Construction of the heavy-rail line along the Eastern Freeway</li></ul>
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### 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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