

# Eastern Suburbs Transport Poll

## December 2013



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## The Survey

This report describes weighted results of an online survey of 1,008 respondents conducted from 5-14 December 2013. The survey was sampled randomly from an online panel. All respondents were aged 18+ and residents of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne (defined as the municipalities of Manningham, Yarra Ranges, Maroondah, Greater Dandenong, Whitehorse, Knox and Monash). The data was weighted to the population profile by municipality, age and gender. The questionnaire was constructed by Essential Research and the fieldwork and data processing conducted by Your Source.

### Survey Reliability

Properly constructed sample surveys can provide results that are described as statistically reliable. The level of statistical reliability is dependent upon the sample size and (except where it is extremely small) the size of the population has no practical effect.

A survey that has 1000 participants will provide results that are – at the 95% confidence level – subject to a sampling variation of between 2% and 3% at the total response level. Sub-samples, because of their smaller size, will exhibit larger sampling variances. The following table shows the sampling variances at the 95% confidence level for a range of sample sizes and response levels.

Sample Size	Variation where the answer is near the percentage of				
	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
100	6%	8%	9%	9%	10%
200	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%
300	3%	5%	5%	6%	6%
400	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
500	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
600	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%
700	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%
800	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
900	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
1000	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.

## Summary of Results

### Issues - satisfaction

Q1. Thinking about the area where you live, how satisfied are you with the following?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Can't say	Net score (Total satisfied - total dissatisfied)
<b>Retail shopping</b>	25%	53%	14%	6%	2%	1%	<b>+70</b>
<b>Schools and education services</b>	15%	47%	19%	8%	3%	10%	<b>+50</b>
<b>Police and public safety</b>	12%	50%	23%	9%	3%	2%	<b>+49</b>
<b>Hospitals and medical services</b>	14%	47%	21%	13%	4%	1%	<b>+45</b>
<b>Roads and freeways</b>	14%	47%	17%	16%	6%	1%	<b>+40</b>
<b>Residential development</b>	10%	41%	29%	12%	5%	4%	<b>+34</b>
<b>Protection of the environment</b>	9%	38%	32%	12%	4%	5%	<b>+32</b>
<b>Commercial development</b>	8%	35%	36%	11%	2%	8%	<b>+29</b>
<b>Access to child care</b>	8%	26%	28%	4%	2%	31%	<b>+28</b>
<b>Access to aged care</b>	7%	30%	30%	9%	3%	23%	<b>+26</b>
<b>Public transport</b>	14%	36%	18%	19%	10%	2%	<b>+20</b>

61% said they were satisfied with roads and freeways in their area and 21% were dissatisfied. Respondents were less satisfied with roads and freeways than they were with services like schools and hospitals, but more satisfied than with public transport.

50% said they were satisfied with public transport and 30% were dissatisfied. This was the lowest net satisfaction (+20) of all the issues measured.

## Issues - importance

Q2. Thinking about Victorian politics, how important are the following issues in deciding which party you will vote for in the next State election (due November next year)?

	Top priority	Very important	Quite important	Not so important	Not at all important	Can't say	Total top/v. imp.
Handling health care and hospitals	35%	42%	18%	2%	1%	2%	<b>77%</b>
Managing the state's economy overall	31%	41%	21%	4%	1%	2%	<b>72%</b>
Having a plan for Victoria's future	28%	43%	23%	3%	*	2%	<b>71%</b>
Creating jobs and reducing unemployment	28%	40%	27%	3%	1%	2%	<b>67%</b>
Addressing crime and public safety	25%	42%	25%	5%	1%	2%	<b>67%</b>
Dealing with budget and spending issues	25%	40%	27%	6%	1%	2%	<b>65%</b>
Improving and expanding public transport	27%	37%	28%	6%	*	2%	<b>64%</b>
Handling education and skills training issues	21%	43%	27%	6%	1%	3%	<b>64%</b>
Ensuring adequate water supply	18%	40%	29%	9%	1%	3%	<b>59%</b>
Supporting Victorian businesses and industries	15%	40%	36%	7%	1%	2%	<b>55%</b>
Building new roads, freeways and toll roads	16%	30%	31%	18%	4%	2%	<b>46%</b>
Protecting the environment	15%	30%	37%	14%	2%	3%	<b>45%</b>
Providing more aged care	13%	31%	36%	12%	2%	7%	<b>43%</b>
Addressing climate change	13%	24%	31%	18%	10%	4%	<b>37%</b>
Providing more child care services	7%	22%	34%	20%	8%	10%	<b>29%</b>

The most important elections issues (of those measured) were handling health care and hospitals (77% top priority or very important), managing the state's economy overall (72%) and having a plan for Victoria's future (71%).

64% said that improving and expanding public transport was top priority/very important - which puts it on a similar level of importance to education and skills training, budget/spending issues and crime/public safety.

46% said that building new roads, freeways and toll roads was top priority/very important - which puts it on a similar level of importance to protecting the environment and providing more aged care.

Q3. Which are the three most important issues for the State Government to address over the next few years?

Most important issues	Total
Building new hospitals and medical centres	52%
Keeping the budget in surplus	37%
Building new rail lines	32%
More police	24%
Building new freeways and toll roads	22%
Removing level crossings	22%
More aged care facilities	19%
Better protection for the environment	17%
More controls over residential and commercial development	17%
Addressing climate change	14%
Building new schools	12%
Improving bus services	11%
More child care centres	5%
Improving tram services	4%
More bike lanes and bike paths	3%
Can't say	2%

When asked to nominate their top three priorities for the State Government to address over the next few years, 52% said building new hospitals and medical centres, 37% keeping the budget in surplus and 32% building new rail lines.

Ranking of the transport issues was -

- Building new rail lines (32%)
- Building new freeways and toll roads (22%)
- Removing level crossings (22%)
- Improving bus services (11%)
- Improving tram services (4%)
- More bike lanes and bike paths (3%)

## Transport usage

Q4. In an average week, which of the following forms of transport do you personally use?

	Total
Private car	85%
Train	29%
Bus	18%
Tram or light rail	10%
Bicycle	6%
Motor cycle	3%
Taxi	3%
None of them	5%

The most common forms of transport used in an average week were private car (85%), train (29%) and bus (18%).

## Transport - satisfaction

Q5. And thinking about travelling around Melbourne generally, how satisfied are you with the following?

	Total satisfied	Total dissatisfied	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Can't say/Don't use	Net satisfaction
<b>Tram/light rail services</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>11%</b>	4%	35%	28%	9%	2%	21%	<b>+28</b>
<b>Bus services</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>18%</b>	4%	31%	27%	14%	4%	19%	<b>+17</b>
<b>Roads, freeways and toll roads</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>	5%	38%	29%	20%	7%	1%	<b>+16</b>
<b>Train services</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>25%</b>	5%	36%	23%	19%	6%	10%	<b>+16</b>
<b>Bike paths and bike lanes</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>12%</b>	4%	24%	31%	9%	3%	29%	<b>+16</b>

Levels of satisfaction with existing transport services across Melbourne were generally similar, and overall, positive.

The most positive rating was for tram and light rail services - 39% satisfied and 11% dissatisfied.



## Major transport developments - importance

Q6. The State Government is proposing major transport developments for Melbourne as follows -

- The East-West link - which will link the Eastern Freeway with the Western Ring Road. The first stage is a tunnel which links the Eastern Freeway and City Link.
- The Melbourne Metro - a rail tunnel from South Yarra to North Melbourne which will expand the capacity of the rail network
- A new rail line to Doncaster
- A new rail line to Rowville
- Removing level crossings (grade separations)

How important do you think each of these are?

	Total top priority /very important	Top priority	Very important	Quite important	Not so important	Not at all important	Can't say
<b>Removing level crossings</b>	59%	29%	30%	24%	7%	3%	7%
<b>Rail line to Doncaster</b>	50%	21%	29%	28%	13%	3%	7%
<b>Rail line to Rowville</b>	48%	21%	27%	28%	13%	3%	8%
<b>Melbourne Metro</b>	46%	15%	32%	32%	12%	3%	6%
<b>East-West link</b>	44%	19%	26%	27%	15%	7%	6%

When asked about the importance of specific transport projects, more than four in ten rated all projects as a top priority/very important. The most important specific projects were removing level crossings (59%) and a rail line to Doncaster (50%).

Q7. The Government has committed to the first stage of the East-West Link but the rail projects are not expected to be finished until 2025-50. Do you think this is acceptable or should the rail projects be built sooner?

<b>Timing is acceptable</b>	10%
<b>Should be built sooner</b>	75%
<b>Do not need to be built at all</b>	7%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%

Three-quarters of respondents believed that the rail projects should be built sooner - only 10% thought the timing was acceptable and a further 7% thought they did not need to be built at all.

Q8. Do you think it is more important for the Government to invest in rail projects or major road projects - or should they invest in both?

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Rail more important</b>	28%
<b>Road more important</b>	14%
<b>Should invest in both</b>	55%
<b>Don't know</b>	4%

55% believe it is important for the State Government to invest in both major road and rail projects. 28% think the rail projects are more important and 14% think the East-West link is more important.

## Major transport developments - traffic impacts

Q9. If the East-West link is not built do you think traffic congestion in Melbourne in 10 years time will be -  
 Q10. If the rail projects are not built do you think traffic congestion in Melbourne in 10 years time will be -

	East-West link	Rail projects
<b>Much worse</b>	47%	59%
<b>Somewhat worse</b>	26%	26%
<b>A little worse</b>	10%	8%
<b>No different</b>	9%	3%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	5%

A substantial majority believe that traffic will get much worse or somewhat worse if either the East-West link (73%) or the rail projects (85%) are not built within the next 10 years.

47% think traffic will get much worse if the east-West link is not built and 59% think traffic will get much worse if the rail projects are not built.

Q11. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

<b>If the East-West link and the rail projects are not built in the next 10 years there will be serious impacts on traffic and quality of life in Melbourne</b>	69%
<b>Melbourne's transport system will cope until the Government can afford to build both the East-West link and the rail projects</b>	17%
<b>Don't know</b>	14%

69% agree that if all the projects are not built there will be serious impacts on traffic and quality of life in Melbourne while only 17% think that the transport system will cope until the Government can afford to build them.

## Government spending

Q12. Do you think it is more important for the State Government to reduce spending to return a budget surplus or to invest in infrastructure like roads and rail?

<b>More important to reduce spending</b>	18%
<b>More important to invest in infrastructure</b>	72%
<b>Don't know</b>	11%

There was strong support for Government investment in infrastructure. Only 18% think that it is more important for the Government to reduce their spending to return a budget surplus.

## Impact on voting

Q13. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a party at the next election if they made the following commitments?

	More likely to vote for them	Less likely to vote for them	Makes no difference to my vote	Don't know
<b>Build the East-West link</b>	34%	17%	37%	12%
<b>Build the rail projects</b>	55%	6%	28%	11%
<b>Build the East-West link and the rail projects</b>	53%	6%	27%	13%

More likely to vote for them	Total	Vote firm	Vote firm but might change	Vote not firm at all
<b>Build the East-West link</b>	34%	40%	36%	33%
<b>Build the rail projects</b>	55%	57%	61%	61%
<b>Build the East-West link and the rail projects</b>	53%	56%	58%	57%

A majority say they would be more likely to vote for a party that committed to building both the East-West link and the rail projects or only the rail projects. Substantially fewer would be influenced by the building of only the East-West link.

Among voters who are likely to change their vote, 61% said they would be more likely to vote for a party that committed to the rail projects and 57% would be more likely to vote for a party that committed to building both the rail and road projects. Only 33% said they would be more likely to vote for a party that only committed to the East-West link - and 23% said they would be less likely.

## Voting preference

Q14/15. If a State Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward?

Q17. And which party did you vote for in the last State Election in 2010?

	Total	Gave voting intention	2PP	Last state election	Last state election (Gave vote)
<b>Labor</b>	30%	34%	45%	30%	36%
<b>Liberal/national</b>	42%	48%	55%	42%	50%
<b>Greens</b>	8%	9%		6%	7%
<b>Palmer United Party</b>	2%	2%		-	-
<b>Family First</b>	2%	3%		2%	2%
<b>Independent or other party</b>	3%	3%		4%	5%
<b>Don't know</b>	13%			6%	
<b>Didn't vote</b>				10%	

Of those who gave a voting intention, 48% said they would vote Liberal/National, 34% Labor and 9% Greens. This represents very little change from their stated vote at the last State election.

Q16. Would you describe your choice as very firm and unlikely to change; firm but it might change; or not that firm at all and you might well consider another choice as things develop?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
<b>Very firm and unlikely to change</b>	38%	43%	41%	23%
<b>Firm but it might change</b>	40%	39%	38%	47%
<b>Not that firm at all and you might well consider another choice as things develop</b>	19%	17%	18%	27%
<b>Don't Know</b>	3%	1%	3%	4%

Only 38% of voters say their intended vote is firm and is unlikely to change. 40% say it is firm but might change and 19% say it is not that firm. 43% of Labor voters and 41% of Liberal/National voters say their vote is firm and unlikely to change.