

Cr Stuart James  
Chairperson  
Eastern Transport Coalition  
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Via: [info@etc.org.au](mailto:info@etc.org.au)

Thursday 25 October 2018

Dear Cr James

Thank you for your letter of 7 September in your capacity as Chair of the Eastern Transport Coalition. We have enjoyed a good relationship with the ETC over the past four years and appreciate your advocacy on behalf on your communities.

As you will be aware, the Victorian Labor Government has already invested more than \$30 billion in upgrading and expanding our public transport network.

In Melbourne's east this includes removing level crossings, new rolling stock, planning for a new light rail connection from Caulfield to Monash and onto Rowville, new and enhanced bus routes throughout the region, as well as major upgrades to key rail lines to provide a more frequent and reliable service for local communities.

Across the city we have removed 29 level crossings and 21 more will be gone by 2022. We also recently announced that a further 25 level crossings will be consigned to history if we are re-elected.

In the east this includes the dangerous and congested level crossings at Union Road in Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Road in Mont Albert. Once these are removed there will be no level crossings between the CBD and Ringwood.

On the Frankston line level crossings on Glen Huntly Road and Neerim Road in Glen Huntly will be removed and they are gone there will be no level crossings between the city and Moorabbin Station.

I would like to thank the ETC for its support of this recent commitment and its interest in our plan for the Suburban Rail Loop, a new underground rail network that will connect every major train line from Frankston to Werribee. Rather than simply funnelling people in and out of the CBD, this project will connect major employment centres, universities and TAFES, hospitals and retail precincts, closer to where people live and raise families.

If re-elected, the Labor Government will immediately commence detailed planning and business case work on this crucial project. Construction is set to commence by 2022, with the link through the east of Melbourne – from Cheltenham to Box Hill identified as the first section of the loop to be underway. This section will connect many major and developing precincts including Clayton, Monash University, Glen Waverley, Deakin Burwood and Box Hill.

Buses are also a key part of the transport network across Melbourne’s east. Over the past four years we have invested more than \$200 million in new and expanded bus services, both in growing and existing communities. Recent reforms to the bus contracting system allows for greater innovation and flexibility in the way services are delivered. We will continue to invest in expanding the network over coming years.

A major improvement in the east will be the upgrade of the Doncaster Bus Rapid Transit as part of the delivery of North East Link. Under the plan, bus services will be improved with a fully separated busway along the Eastern Freeway in each direction and improved connections from the Doncaster Park and Ride onto the Freeway. Travel times will be slashed by up to 30 per cent. This initiative will take an already hugely successful bus service to the next level – providing a service akin to a rail or light rail service. Work on the busway will commence in the next term of government.

In addition to this major upgrade, \$10 million is currently being invested on upgrading the existing DART service, including upgrades to bus stops, creating new bus priority lanes and works to accommodate larger articulated buses on the network.

Work will also continue on options to upgrade Box Hill Station. The Chair of this redevelopment is steering this crucial project, and the committee is working towards a business case for the project.

I thank you for your continued work and advocacy on these issues.

Yours sincerely



**HON DANIEL ANDREWS MP**  
Premier of Victoria  
Leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party