



North East Link: Banyule Council longer tunnel option

Banyule Council engaged an international tunnelling consultant to explore options of extending the tunnel to replace the open trench section to reduce the impact of the project on the Banyule community. The main finding of the report was that it was possible to extend the tunnel a further 2.5km from Blamey Rd to north of Watsonia Station.

Benefits include:

- Significant reduction in surface works south of the Hurstbridge railway line;
- Eliminates the community dividing barrier that a trench creates;
- Retains existing road network access, ensuring suburbs and communities remain connected, both during and after construction;
- Reduces overall residential property acquisition needed for the project;
- Provides a consistent incline for the road in the tunnel, for smooth and efficient traffic flow including trucks;
- Allows substantive tree replacement planting along route;
- Reduces the visual impact and traffic noise compared to the trench; and
- Provides opportunities to improve access to Watsonia Shopping Centre and minimize disruption during construction, especially for local businesses and visitors.
- Provides opportunities to improve access to properties east of the alignment and minimise disruption during construction for the local community.

A longer tunnel would require the review of the North East Link project costs, construction time, the Grimshaw Street interchange design, and other associated considerations.



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

North East Link: Banyule Council's Proposed Tunnel Extension

