

Request to be heard?: No, but please email me th

Full Name: Marelle Davey

Organisation: Wood & Grieve Engineers

Affected property: 9/58 Bateman Rd

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear North East Link Inquiry and Advisory Committee, As an independent panel free from political barriers, you have an opportunity to make recommendations to the government that will protect our community and our city. My name is Marelle, I am a resident of Kensington and a community member of the Melbourne metro area. I call on the Inquiry and Advisory Committee to rethink the North East Link. The cost of the project is too high for our city. Melbourne is lucky compared to other huge cities when it comes to traffic and cars on the road. In order to keep our city liveable, we need to think carefully about how we maintain less traffic and improve conditions for everyone. The secret of induced demand is out - we all know now that building more roads invites more traffic - it's not a solution to the problem. We have other options for transport. Imagine 2,000 people in their cars. If we estimate that it would take 1,300 cars to transport 2,000 people (let's be realistic, most people drive alone), those 1,300 cars would take up roughly 17,800m² of space. This is assuming a car is 4.7m x 1.9m (plus 0.5m and 1.0m between cars which is an underestimate). The new high capacity Metro trains can fit 1,380 passengers comfortably and are 160 metres long and about 3 metres wide. Even if it took two of these trains to transport 2,000 people, the spatial footprint would still be 960m². That's 5% of the spatial requirement for cars. FIVE PERCENT! Plus a lot less road rage, stress, and greenhouse gas emissions. AND you get the benefit of preserving parkland or having more land available for other uses given that a rail track and stations will take up substantially less space than the multi-lane highway proposed. This is not to mention money - forcing Victorians to buy, own and drive private cars when fuel prices are rising is unjust. We deserve the option of affordable transport. How does Victoria plan on reducing emissions to meet the state Emission Reduction Targets? How do we plan on building a community resilient to the imminent effects of climate change? When more 40+ degree days hit us, do you wish to see Victorians trapped in their cars, sitting in traffic, on a massive freeway that's absorbing and emitting heat while fumes from all the cars rise up and pollute the air? Or Victorians safely and quickly getting to their destination on electric trains, with views of green space, full of tree coverage that's helping to mitigate the heat while cleaning the air? What about the effects on stormwater and flooding? What about the embodied carbon in the materials? I recommend that we give priority to public transport options that will allow more people to leave their cars at home. I ask Planning Panels Victoria to support community concerns about the North East Link. I urge the panel to recommend reallocating priority to public transport options that will reduce congestion in Melbourne rather than further lock our city into reliance on private cars for transport.