

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

**Full Name:** Richard Kemp

**Organisation:** Gold Standard Barbershop

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I am a business owner in Watsonia and believe the current North East Link design Design proposal to be unacceptable. Not only because it will destroy the little natural beauty left on Greensborough Rd, but the years of disruption will impact small businesses in adjacent areas, and place our longer term survival at high risk. I understand that The Watsonia Traders Association have proposed an alternative Community design to NELP for an extended tunnel option (i.e. moving the northern portal of the tunnel further north of Elder St) however, to date, rather than quantifying why the proposal can't be accommodated, NELP representatives have simply dismissed the community alternative design. I find this disrespectful and not in the spirit of consultation. Banyule city council have also engaged an independent tunnelling expert who has confirmed the feasibility of an extended tunnel. NELP has not to date taken the evidence and investigated it thoroughly. I therefore support the SMART Taxpayers Design (Community Design) which has been prepared via regular widespread community consultation & feedback, and addresses many of the issues I have with the current reference design. I believe it supports better communal cohesion & connectivity for residents and small business owners. Furthermore, the proposal at Watsonia Railway Station car park to install a multi-level parking facility will certainly have an impact on the shopping strip visibility from Greensborough Hwy users (my shop in particular). It will also put businesses at increased risk if retail outlets are integrated into the design of the multi-storey car park. These factors combined will discourage people from accessing and shopping in the Watsonia Road Shopping Strip businesses. I am sure you will all agree with me that that the extended tunnel is more advantageous for Banyule community. It goes a long way to answering many of the impacts on the Banyule community, from environmental issues (noise, light pollution) to the impacts on fauna and flora. Its also a better option for maintaining current lifestyles of the community and connectivity issues for business and community amenities such as schools. I implore you to do everything you can to protect our well-maintained remnant local bush land from being needlessly bulldozed, because all we'll get are more roads that will divide us from our customers and our community, and destroy local small businesses. Many thanks for your valuable time. Rich Kemp