Thank you for providing me the opportunity to highlight my concerns today. I sought the opportunity to speak to you today to share with you a personal story, and highlight my concerns about Rosanna Road still being allowed to remain as a truck route within the North East Link Tunnel project.

I reside in Rosanna, between two main roads which intersect with Rosanna Road, these being St James and Banyule Road.

In 2015 I was turning right into St James Road off Rosanna Road, coming away from the city. I was returning home with my son in the left-hand side of the car. As I sat in the middle turning lane, my left-hand side vision mirror was collected by the back of a truck.

The noise of this impact provided me with awful fright and horror of not knowing what was occurring and what was going to happen next, particularly because my son was in his child seat on the same side of the collision.

As the back of the truck had clipped my car, the driver was unaware and proceeded to travel up Rosanna Road. I had to find my way back into the traffic and pursue him up the road to seek redress for the damage to my vehicle. This was a horrible experience, and an unsafe one to get him to pull over and for me not to cause another accident.

This incident caused me a lot anxiety for many months, and to this day I do not like using the middle turning lane at St James and Rosanna Road or the intersection of Rosanna Road and Darebin Street, due to the close proximity of the trucks as they pass through.

Vicroads undertook a report in October 2017 and highlighted that Rosanna Road does not have sufficient lane widths for this road to be considered a suitable truck route, yet it still remains one today, and within the NE Link tunnel project.

Premier Daniel Andrews announced on 23 November 2017 at the cul-de-sac of Berrima Road and Rosanna Road when the NEL Option A was chosen that “we are taking trucks off Rosanna Road for local residents”.

I do not see how allowing trucks to continue to use Rosanna Road as an option is addressing the concerns of the width of the road, which in my opinion is only a matter of time for a major accident to occur. Or that it is returning it to the local residents.

As a part of my working career, and that of my husband, we have amassed 23 years between us within the Legal & Trustee Industry concerned with looking after individuals’ affairs who have received compensation due to road-based accidents. I feel that on this basis I can talk first-hand on the devastation that occurs to a person’s life, and their families after a significant road accident, and the trauma and long-term disability it causes, such as acquired brain injuries.

I do not understand why when there is a perfect opportunity to address the safety concerns of Rosanna Road, that the trucks are not being made to use the NEL tunnel, unless for local deliveries.

As a local resident I support the efforts of Resolve Rosanna Road, to ensure the residents of Rosanna are provided with a safe neighbourhood for their children to walk to and from school, and for individuals to walk safely to the station and across the suburb. I have seen many a truck run a red light at Station & Rosanna Road, Banyule & Rosanna Road along with the intersection of Darebin Street, where there is high foot traffic due to schools, and station walking routes.
Laura Moorfield

I have lost count by the number of times I have been woken by trucks using their engine breaks in the early hours of the mornings, even with a truck curfew on Rosanna Road from 10pm – 6am.

Having lived in the north for most of my life I understand the need for the NE Link, but I wish for this project to be undertaken where it provides optimal safety and sufficient considerations to the livelihoods of the local residents.

The trucks will have the North East Link as a brand-new wide freeway to get where they need to go. As a resident in the local area I have to rely on Rosanna to get to work, commute my children to their activities, and undertake other errands. For this reason, trucks should be banned on Rosanna when the North East Link is built.

I thank the panel for your time and I hope you will take my personal story of living close to Rosanna Road and the safety concerns I have of trucks being allowed to continue to use Rosanna Road.