

Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

667

Request to be heard?: no

Full Name: Lucie Holden

Organisation: Watsonia Neighbourhood Housde

Affected property: 127 Graham Road

Attachment 1: NE_link_submissi

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Submission uploaded

I am a resident of Viewbank and I work in Watsonia. My family and I enjoy living in this area because of our proximity to parks and natural spaces. I travel from Viewbank along Greensborough Highway every day for my work.

Traffic reduction on local residential streets

I would like to see reduced traffic on Rosanna Road especially less large vehicles and trucks, which are often too wide for the lanes. I've seen several accidents and more near misses than I could count, especially on the corner of Banyule Road. I live in a residential street that is often used as a "rat run" during peak times making it difficult to safely exit my driveway and for my daughter to cross the road when walking to school. I am concerned that this problem will be worse during construction if drivers experience delays along our major surrounding roads of Lower Plenty Road and Greensborough Highway.

Foot path along Lower Plenty Road

When looking at the plans at the intersection of Greensborough Highway and Lower Plenty Road, it was not clear where the footpath on Lower Plenty Road would be. I would like to see footpaths remain on both sides of the road, especially since many children cross at that intersection and walk to Viewbank Primary and Viewbank Secondary from the Macleod area. The existing footpath should be widened to allow for bikes to also ride safely.

Tree planting

I understand that trees will be removed as part of the project construction. I would like to see these trees replaced with mature trees to quickly provide canopy and habitat for the animals and birds that live in our area. We would like to see nesting boxes such as possum or sugar slider boxes to provide to provide instant homes. Also the trees need to be appropriate species to meet the needs of the animals and birds, ideally native to Banyule. I would like to see the planting of replacement trees to occur as soon as possible and not left to the final stages of the project. This is also important to provide shade and reduce heat accumulation. Community members are more likely to walk and cycle along the new paths if there is suitable shade provided.

Watsonia shopping precinct

I am concerned about the potential impact to our well loved shopping strip in Watsonia Road during construction. I am aware that traders were negatively impacted during recent road closures for level cross removal in Rosanna. And that was for a much shorter duration than Watsonia traders will experience. I wouldn't like to see traders closing and being left with a lot of empty shops .

Also I am concerned about the plans to run the buses along Watsonia Road rather than Greensborough Highway. The road is single lane in both directions, with cars pulling in and out of parking, pedestrians crossing the road and cyclists also sharing the road. I think there is a serious safety issue to consider if we are adding buses to this road. I would also expect an increase in rat run traffic to avoid construction zones along Greensborough Highway

Watsonia station

An upgrade is needed for Watsonia station to be accessible for wheelchair users or people with restricted mobility. The existing ramp is too steep and is unsafe. I know local people with disabilities do not use this station for this reason and choose private cars or taxis rather than public transport, adding to road traffic congestion.

Whilst I understand that train users need to get to the station from their homes, I think better planned and more frequent buses if preferable to adding more parking. I particularly don't like the plan for a multi story car park at Watsonia station. It will restrict views to the Dandenongs, which is one of the lovely features of Watsonia. Given the residents will be receiving a great big highway through their suburb, taking the view away as well is further eroding aesthetic amenity. If it must be built, and people can't be encouraged to travel to Watsonia by bus, cycling or walking, then please consider the design of it. Rosanna station and adjoining bridge over Rosanna Road have been designed to complement their surrounds including natural colours, landscaping and artwork.

Community connection

As a community development worker I am concerned about the impact of this project on community and social cohesion. If people are finding it difficult to move around our area on foot or bike, then it will impact on feelings of connection to one another. This will result in higher crime rates, increased mental and physical health problems and feelings of isolation and loneliness. Given the community will already feel disrupted by the construction – lots of noise, roads closed or blocks, our trees removed, parkland impacted, heavy machinery in use, we need to consider opportunities for community engagement. I would love the project to include a community space (rooms or building) constructed on the Yallambie side. Pop up parks like the ones council have delivered in Watsonia or community festivals to be organised frequently through out the construction period. We need to ensure that vulnerable people in our community are well supported during this time.