Ref: CMIN19011435

Ms Katie George
katie.s.grg@gmail.com

Dear Ms George

Thank you for your email of the 8 June 2019 regarding North East Link Project. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I understand you have made a submission on the North East Link (NEL) Environment Effects Statement (EES) and will have an opportunity to be heard by the independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee established by the Minister for Planning for NEL.

An EES assessment process is Victoria’s most robust and transparent Impact assessment process which will carefully consider the impacts you and others who have made submissions raised about the project.

Over the last 18 months the NEL Project team has talked to thousands of people about the way they move in and around their local area – they will continue to do that during the planning process and leading into and during project construction.

There’s no doubt that projects of this size and complexity pose significant challenges for those potentially impacted and I acknowledge that this process has been difficult for you and your family. While this process is difficult, it is the right way to manage impacts while getting an outcome that considers the whole community.

I am advised that the alternative design that you have referenced has been closely examined through the Inquiry and Advisory Committee hearings into the EES. Through the hearings NELP has explained that this design would mean that more homes would need to be acquired, more schools and open spaces would be impacted, construction impacts would be greater, the traffic benefits of the project would be diminished, and the cost of the project would increase significantly.
I understand that on the 8 August 2019 you were invited to attend an information session held at the Veneto Club in Bulleen where NEL Project staff discussed an alternate design option for the Lower Plenty Road intersection. Contractors bidding on the project will continue to develop options and look for ways to reduce impacts during construction and operation.

I encourage you to continue to engage with the team at NEL as the project progresses.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Member for Bendigo East
Minister for Transport Infrastructure