

# Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

# 527

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**Request to be heard?:** yes

**Full Name:** Eve Pakarinen

**Organisation:** Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** BMISSION\_ON\_BE

**Attachment 2:** BMISSION\_ON\_BE

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Please see attached file

# SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF WHITEHORSE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

This submission is being lodged on behalf of the residents of Whitehorse who will be very adversely affected by the environmental effects of North East Link. The adverse effects can be classified under at least four headings:

## NOISE POLLUTION

We feel that given the proximity of North East Link to many residences close to the Eastern Freeway a level of 63 decibels of noise on average is way too high and we believe that a maximum of 50 decibels would deliver a far better noise level for residents in close proximity to the Eastern Freeway, given the additional traffic slated for this area. We also query the quality of the noise barriers and ask if they will be up to the task of radical noise reduction.

## AIR QUALITY AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION

We believe that there will be much more traffic congestion on the arterial roads leading to and from the entrances to the Eastern Freeway, given the vast additional traffic expected. We ask what is being done to reduce such traffic congestion and what plans are in place to cope with this. How will the extreme excess of traffic cope on the off ramps that join the major arterial roads leading into the suburbs of Whitehorse, without becoming major bottlenecks? As far as we can see there is nothing being planned to cope with the additional traffic in Whitehorse. This will lead to arterial roads being clogged and traffic coming to a standstill. All this in turn will affect the air quality in the arterial roads leading to and from the Eastern Freeway. We ask whether there has been any consideration of ultra fine air pollution and the most recent research on the effects on human health in relation to all this traffic.

## LOST PARKLAND

We are concerned that especially in the City of Whitehorse there are large tracts of parkland which will disappear near the Koonung Creek and this is pristine nature at its best which is much loved by residents of the area.. In fact it has been said that North East Link will take at least nine football fields of parkland. Given the high level of densification in the Box Hill area etc there is an intense need for parkland to give residents some proximity to green reserves and open space.. As far as we can see there has been no attempt by North East Link to replace parkland taken in this area and we ask what is being done in this regard to replace any parkland taken.

## REMOVAL OF TREES

We are concerned that over 26,000 of established trees will be removed by the construction of North East Link, This will lead to a disgraceful degradation of the environment with the loss of all those trees and open space. These trees provide habitat for Australian animals and birds and are important in the fight against climate change by absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These trees have taken many, many years to establish themselves and have been able to withstand the harsh conditions of our climate. Even though it is proposed to plant other trees they will be young and given the harsh climate are unlikely to survive. It will take at least 30 years to replace the current trees and in the meantime are unlikely to survive the harsh climatic conditions, so we will lose established trees and not really have much in the way of viable replacements.