

North East Link Project (NELP)

Request of Government

We call on the Federal Government, as a co-funder of the North East Link Project (NELP), to advocate to the State Government to:

- 1. Deliver a Transit Oriented Development when Doncaster Park and Ride is redeveloped.
- 2. Improve access and transparency to Environment Protection Agency (EPA) air quality data reports.
- 3. Install filters within the Southern Portal Ventilation Stack, or transparency on the trigger for filters being required, with this information communicated to Council and the community.

1. Doncaster Park and Ride

The problem

- NELP has committed to deliver a like for like replacement of Doncaster Park and Ride, whereas we are seeking a Transit Oriented Development with increased capacity.
- Project land is owned by the Department of Transport and Planning and funding for redevelopment comes from the State Government.

The solution

 We have previously engaged consultants to undertake concept designs and a feasibility study highlighting benefits of an increased scope and mixed-use development.

Project benefits

Redeveloping Doncaster Park and Ride to a Transit Oriented Development with increased capacity will:

- improve amenity to commuters and local residents
- enhance land use opportunities and activate the local area
- encourage increased density opportunities
- facilitate employment opportunities within the municipality
- respond to emerging demand from increased population and mode-shift to public transport.

Timing

- The current Doncaster Park and Ride closed in January 2025.
- Construction of the new facility is expected to start in 2026 and be completed by around 2028.

2. EPA air quality data

The problem

- Air quality data for the project is not live, meaning there is no real-time awareness of when dust levels exceed acceptable limits. Instead, this information is only available through auditor reports, which cover six-month periods.
- These reports are typically released at least six months after the audit closes, leading to a potential 12-month delay for the public to have visibility of exceedances.

The solution

Improved access and transparency on the EPA air quality data reports.

Benefits

- There has been concern from the community over instances of noise and dust that have not triggered intervention.
- By providing relevant data to the community, a greater sense of trust can be achieved towards the project's operations.

Timing

- Baseline air quality measurements were undertaken pre-2019. Project completion is expected in 2028.
- Air quality monitoring will continue for at least five years post completion.

3. Filters within the Southern Portal Ventilation Stack

The problem

- We have been advocating for filters to be installed within the ventilation stack since 2019 through the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) hearings.
- NELP disclosed that the air quality around the (filter-less) stack is expected to be better than the pre-project air quality along Bulleen Road – as trucks are no longer idling in traffic on Bulleen Road. While we see merit in this logic, we are continuing to advocate that filters be installed within the ventilation stacks, in case the modelling is incorrect and filtration is required.

The solution

 Installing filters within the Southern Portal Ventilation Stack or having greater transparency on the trigger for filters being required and making this information available to our community.

Benefits

Installation of filters within the Southern Portal Ventilation Stack will:

- future proof for the case that air filtration is required
- enhance the air quality of the surrounding area
- open and transparent communication regarding the triggers for filter installation will also promote trust between the project and community

Timing

 Baseline air quality measurements were undertaken pre-2019. Project completion is expected in 2028 – air quality monitoring will continue for at least five years post completion.

Project contact

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Cover image: Artist's impression of the upgraded Bulleen Road and southern tunnel ventilation structure, Bulleen.

