

Whitehorse community survey regarding North East Link

The State Government has committed to constructing the North East Link (NEL), a freeway standard road connecting the M80 Ring Road in Greensborough to the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen Road. The project also includes the widening of the Eastern Freeway between Bulleen Road and Springvale Road. Council resolved at its meeting on 11 December 2017 to oppose the State Government's decision to select this alignment. At its meeting on 19 March 2018, Council further resolved to host a public forum to hear community views regarding NEL. In conjunction with the forum, a survey was distributed to invite community comments regarding NEL. This report lists the results of the community survey.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Survey period: | 27 August 2018 to 14 October 2018 |
| Target audience: | Residents in vicinity of NEL project area Users of community facilities in vicinity of NEL project area Community members who travel through area |
| Survey advertising methods: | Print media, social media, web information, 'on-hold' phone messages, poster displays, emails to stakeholder groups, community radio announcements and distribution of flyers. |
| Format: | Online and hard copy |
| Respondents: | 172 |

Survey questions and results:

1. Please indicate your level of support for the North East Link project

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------|
| Strongly supportive | 16 | 9.3% |
| Supportive | 19 | 11.0% |
| Neutral | 21 | 12.2% |
| Opposed | 21 | 12.2% |
| Strongly opposed | 95 | 55.2% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

2. How do you think the North East Link project will impact you directly?

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| <i>Detrimental impacts</i> | | |
| Loss of open space | 64 | 18% |
| Increase in noise | 48 | 14% |
| Increase in traffic volume (general) | 44 | 13% |
| Increase in pollution | 31 | 9% |
| Increase in traffic volume (local) | 28 | 8% |
| Impacts to the walking and cycling paths | 22 | 6% |
| Impacts to ecology (plants and animals) | 20 | 6% |
| Impacts to amenity of the area | 12 | 3% |
| Impacts to health | 11 | 3% |
| Loss of wetland area | 9 | 3% |
| Impacts during construction phase | 8 | 2% |
| Impact on the environment | 8 | 2% |
| Impacts to public transport | 7 | 2% |

"We just want to enjoy our parkland and own backyards without having to hear and breathe in the large amount of traffic and pollution the NELA will cause."

"The birdlife there is unlikely to stick around while its natural habitat is slowly consumed and destroyed."

"Improved access to the northern suburbs, Hume Freeway and airport from the eastern suburbs."

"Construction impacts will be felt for years - noise, dust, vibration."

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Impacts to dog walking | 6 | 2% |
| Impacts to traffic volume(trucks) | 6 | 2% |
| Safety issues | 6 | 2% |
| Location of pedestrian and cycling bridges will move | 5 | 1% |
| Social impacts | 5 | 1% |
| Financial impact | 3 | 1% |
| Impacts to sports facilities | 3 | 1% |
| Area will be less accessible | 1 | 0% |
| Impact to business | 1 | 0% |
| Total | 348 | 100% |

Beneficial impacts

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Improved connectivity throughout the region | 18 | 64% |
| Improved traffic conditions (general) | 4 | 14% |
| Improved traffic conditions (local) | 3 | 11% |
| Improved traffic conditions (trucks) | 1 | 4% |
| Financial benefits | 1 | 4% |
| Benefits to open space | 1 | 4% |
| Total | 28 | 100% |

4. What impact do you think the project will have on the Whitehorse community?

Detrimental impacts

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Loss of open space | 31 | 18% |
| Increased traffic volumes (general) | 27 | 16% |
| Increased noise | 24 | 14% |
| Increased pollution | 19 | 11% |
| Impacts to health, amenity, liveability, social enjoyment | 19 | 11% |
| Increased traffic volumes (local) | 15 | 9% |
| Walking and cycling connectivity | 7 | 4% |
| Increased traffic volumes (freeway) | 6 | 4% |
| Impacts to plants and animals | 5 | 3% |
| Increased traffic volumes (trucks) | 4 | 2% |
| Loss of creekland and wetlands | 3 | 2% |
| Impact house valuations | 3 | 2% |
| Limits option for rail services along Eastern Freeway | 3 | 2% |
| Impacts during construction | 2 | 1% |
| Loss of houses | 2 | 1% |
| Total | 170 | 100% |

Positive impacts

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Reduced regional travel times | 5 | 29% |
| Decreased traffic (local) | 5 | 29% |
| Improved access to other areas of Melbourne | 3 | 18% |
| Better transport options | 2 | 12% |
| Improved traffic flow | 1 | 6% |
| Improved bus services along Eastern Freeway | 1 | 6% |
| Total | 17 | 100% |

"I am not concerned about the impact on me but the impact on Melbourne. Especially for having less money to spend on public transport."

"A link of any sort is well and truly overdue. I need this to get to the airport as I fly a lot for work."

"NEL will divert large volumes of traffic to Eastern Freeway and Middleborough, Blackburn and Springvale Roads which are already frequently overloaded."

"It will increase congestion in our street, decrease air quality, increase noise and reduce my access to public transport because it does not include a rail link to the city."

"House prices will increase. Better choice of roads & routes to airport and northern suburbs. Less trucks on local roads"

5. What message would you like Council to send to State Government about the North East Link project?

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Don't use alignment option A | 46 | 21% |
| Do not impact open space and wetlands | 27 | 12% |
| Stop the project | 27 | 12% |
| Prioritise public transport and active transport | 25 | 11% |
| Continue to build NEL | 17 | 8% |
| Protect our ecology and environment | 12 | 5% |
| Address local traffic impacts | 10 | 5% |
| Undertake better community engagement | 10 | 5% |
| Address population growth | 9 | 4% |
| Do more to address noise | 8 | 4% |
| Be more considerate of property owners along corridor | 7 | 3% |
| Don't widen Eastern Freeway | 6 | 3% |
| Ensure walking and cycling accessibility | 4 | 2% |
| Protect our liveability, health and wellbeing | 4 | 2% |
| Add another link at Ringwood | 3 | 1% |
| Build East West Link | 3 | 1% |
| Ensure construction activities do not impact community | 1 | 0% |
| Redesign alignment option A | 1 | 0% |
| Total | 220 | 100% |

"Can't wait for it to happen."

"It will greatly effect my quality of life. I live close to the eastern freeway. The extra amount of traffic will greatly effect the local environment."

"This project will have a huge detrimental impact on the social, environmental and wellbeing of residents."

"The Bulleen route will make access to the Hume Highway very good for us in Blackburn."

"Living in Box Hill Nth and only 3 houses away from the Eastern Freeway I believe it will impact me quite dramatically."

6. I live within the City of Whitehorse

| | | |
|------------|-----|------|
| Yes | 148 | 86% |
| No | 24 | 14% |
| Unsure | 0 | 0% |
| Not stated | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

7. I work within the City of Whitehorse

| | | |
|------------|-----|------|
| Yes | 58 | 34% |
| No | 113 | 66% |
| Unsure | 0 | 0% |
| Not stated | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

8. I study within the City of Whitehorse

| | | |
|------------|-----|------|
| Yes | 15 | 9% |
| No | 156 | 91% |
| Unsure | 0 | 0% |
| Not stated | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

9. I visit shops, businesses, parks, recreation facilities, services etc within the City of Whitehorse

| | | |
|------------|-----|------|
| Yes | 170 | 99% |
| No | 2 | 1% |
| Unsure | 0 | 0% |
| Not stated | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

10. Which suburb do you live in?

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Box Hill North | 61 | 35% |
| Mont Albert North | 27 | 16% |
| Blackburn | 11 | 6% |
| Balwyn North | 10 | 6% |
| Nunawading | 10 | 6% |
| Box Hill | 9 | 5% |
| Blackburn North | 8 | 5% |
| Doncaster | 6 | 3% |
| Mitcham | 4 | 2% |
| Bulleen | 3 | 2% |
| Croydon | 3 | 2% |
| Balwyn | 2 | 1% |
| Blackburn South | 2 | 1% |
| Mont Albert | 2 | 1% |
| Vermont | 2 | 1% |
| Box Hill South | 1 | 1% |
| Collingwood | 1 | 1% |
| Heathmont | 1 | 1% |
| Surrey Hills | 1 | 1% |
| Templestowe | 1 | 1% |
| Viewbank | 1 | 1% |
| Warranwood | 1 | 1% |
| Belmore | 1 | 1% |
| Not stated | 4 | 2% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

"It will reduce congestion."

"I agree that the tunnel between the eastern & ring road is needed."

"It will probably take away some of the parkland at [Frank] Sedgman reserve that I use and moved into the area 2 years ago to enjoy."

"I live in Eram Road, it will strongly impact both lifestyle and property values."

"We will have another construction depot dumped on our open space land."

"My uninterrupted view of bushland will become a mass sound barrier."

11. My gender is

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Female | 91 | 53% |
| Male | 73 | 42% |
| Prefer not to say | 7 | 4% |
| Not stated | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |

12. My age is

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| 18 years and under | 2 | 1% |
| 19-35 years | 16 | 9% |
| 36-50 years | 72 | 42% |
| 51-65 years | 42 | 24% |
| 65 years and over | 30 | 17% |
| Prefer not to say | 9 | 5% |
| Not stated | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 172 | 100% |