



MEDIA RELEASE

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Like-for-like funding commitments demonstrates need for North East Link

The announcement by Federal Member for Jagajaga Jenny Macklin that the Australian Labor Party would match Coalition funding to investigate routing options for the North East Link is further evidence that the connection is urgently needed.

“Both parties apparently recognise that the North East Link connection is much-needed and long overdue,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“While the VTA welcomes funding from both parties, what we really need is a serious commitment from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments to put their differences aside and get on with building this vital piece of infrastructure,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

Through today’s announcements, both the Coalition and the ALP have each committed \$5 million towards further studies that will accelerate work on the vital ‘missing link’ connection between the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough and either the Eastern Freeway or EastLink.

“The North East Link is the VTA’s number one road transport project for Victoria and if built would be a major driver for productivity improvements and efficiency gains for freight and logistics operators,” Mr Anderson said.

“It would also boost the broader economy by reducing congestion on arterial roads in Melbourne’s north east, as well as improve safety for all road users, and amenity for residents in the area.”

Around 40,000 vehicles per day presently use north-south arterial roads to traverse between the M80 Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway everyday including trucks and heavy vehicles that are starved for choice when it comes to making the connection.

The VTA estimates around 40 per cent of heavy vehicle traffic would be removed from roads in the north east when the North East Link is finally built.

“The VTA will continue to advocate for the North East Link and we urge legislators of all persuasions to get on board with this vital infrastructure project,” Mr Anderson said.

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