

**OFFICERS' ADVICE****NORTH EAST LINK**

Submitting Councillors: Crs Pang Tsoi and Zographos

**MOTION**

*The State Government is progressing with the building of the North East Link. As part of that road project, the Eastern Freeway will be increased up to 18 lanes, to cater for the additional traffic that will flow onto the Eastern Freeway from the North East Link.*

*A number of key roads that connect to the Eastern Freeway run straight through the City of Monash, including Springvale and Blackburn Roads. It is important that Council has a clear understanding of the impact on roads in the City of Monash as a result of the North East Link road project.*

*We therefore propose that Council undertakes a thorough investigation on the impact on roads in the City of Monash as a result of the North East Link road project."*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The North East Link is a State Government Project and the project process has included substantial analysis and reporting on all facets including transport modelling and traffic predictions. Further investigation into traffic impacts into the City of Monash if necessary may form part of the Monash National Innovation and Employment Cluster Study.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

The notice of motion if passed, will have minor impact on internal resources.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

Not applicable

**RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES**

From the mid 1990s Council was an active participant of the Eastern Ring Road Steering Committee formed by metropolitan councils along the transport corridor to advocate for the funding and construction of the Scoresby Freeway now known as EastLink.

The opening of EastLink in 2008, which connected the Monash Freeway to the Eastern Freeway, left a missing component in the north east to complete the orbital road network that would connect the growing northern and south-eastern suburbs.

***FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS***

The North East Link is a proposed freeway standard road connection that plans to complete the missing link in Melbourne's Metropolitan Ring Road. It will also be an accessibility benefit to the Monash National Innovation and Employment Cluster.

Four possible routes were put forward for consideration with the 11 kilometre corridor following the Greensborough Highway and Bulleen Road being announced at the preferred option. This includes 6 extra lanes added to the Eastern Freeway west of Springvale Road.

The North East Link will provide substantial congestion relief on many arterial roads north of the Eastern Freeway but some roads are expected to experience an increase in traffic usually due to their role as a 'feeder' route to the project. In the north these include the M80, Greensborough Bypass and Plenty Road, while in the east these include Eastern Freeway feeder routes such as Elgar Road, Springvale Road and Bulleen Road (south of the freeway).

Project modelling indicates that in 2035 the traffic volume in Springvale Road, just south of the Eastern Freeway, will be in the order of 61,000 – 79,000 vehicles a day representing an increase of 6,000 due to the project and in Middleborough Road (northern extension of Stephenson's Road) will be in the order of 35,000 – 42,000 vehicles a day representing an increase of 2000 due to the project.