

OFFICERS' REPORT**MONASH RAIL**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Davies

That Council:

- *Notes the \$475m funding in the latest Federal budget allocated towards a "Monash Rail" project connecting Huntingdale station past Monash University to Rowville and consideration of other options.*
- *Notes the \$3m funding in the latest State budget allocated towards a feasibility study for a tram option from Caulfield to Rowville, passing Monash University.*
- *While fully supportive at the prospect of any increase in public transport capacity and funding, notes its preference for the 'Monash Rail' option.*
- *Writes to Hon. Paul Fletcher, Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, confirming Monash Council's longstanding support for the 'Monash Rail' project and requesting further details on the funding commitments related to all stages of the Project.*
- *Writes to Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport confirming Monash Council's longstanding support for the 'Monash Rail' project and requesting that the Opposition outline their funding commitments for the 'Monash Rail' project.*
- *Writes to the Premier of Victoria and Member for Mulgrave, Hon Daniel Andrews MP and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Matthew Guy MP, confirming Monash Council's longstanding support for the 'Monash Rail' project and requesting they clarify their 2018 election funding commitments to the 'Monash Rail' project and/or the Caulfield to Rowville tram option.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications if the Notice of Motion is passed.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There will be no impact on internal resources if the Notice of Motion is passed.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

A goal of the Monash Integrated Transport Strategy, adopted by Council in February 2017, is to encourage use of more sustainable transport modes, with one of its actions being to "*continue to advocate to the State Government for the provision of a heavy or light rail service on the corridor to Rowville with stations at Monash University, Mulgrave, Waverley Park and Rowville*"

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The Notice of Motion complements the work previously undertaken by officers and Councillors.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Federal Government's budget commitment of \$475 million is expected to half-fund heavy rail from Huntingdale to Monash University, with the State Government expected to meet the remaining cost. This revives the heavy rail option into the precinct but falls short of extending to Rowville to commute travellers from the outer east into the Monash region.

The State Government has indicated preference for a light rail and recently announced a \$3 million planning and feasibility study budget for the project. This predicts a first stage new tram route from Caulfield to Chadstone Shopping Centre and Monash University terminating in Wellington Road, west of Blackburn Road with stage two extending to Rowville.

There will be significant debate ahead on the pros and cons of each project, including deliverable timelines, community benefits and the best outcomes for the Clayton National Employment and Innovation Cluster.