

SCRAP THE EAST-WEST TOLL ROAD!

Recent polls show that less than a quarter of people support the East-West Link project. People understand that the only people set to benefit from this road are the big transport and construction firms. Most people agree that Victoria desperately needs to prioritise investment in public transport.

Despite this the government has rushed to sign dodgy contracts just weeks before the state election. If allowed to go ahead, billions of taxpayer dollars would be funnelled into the coffers of the big businesses who have won the contract. The truth is cancelling the contracts will be much cheaper than proceeding with this disastrous project.

Arrogantly the government has attempted to include clauses that guarantee the contractors millions in compensation even if the project does not go ahead. While the Liberals have cut millions from TAFE they have found money in the budget to hand over to their financial backers.

The government has no mandate for this toll road. They said they would prioritise public transport in the lead up to the last election but they have failed to deliver any real improvements. The announcements they have made are not funded and are years away from commencement.

Even the government's own reports predict the East-West toll road would not reduce congestion, yet it would consume billions of dollars of funding for decades to come. While the project will create some jobs, they would only be temporary.

Public transport projects create more long term and sustainable jobs than road projects do. Expansion of public transport would also take more cars off the road, reducing traffic for those who need to drive. Public transport is also a key factor in reducing carbon emissions.

Labor has been forced by the community campaign to come out against the East-West Link. If they win the election we will turn our attention to ensuring they don't go back on their word. In the meantime we are focusing on expanding our campaign. In the lead up to the election we are demanding that all parties commit to the following 3 demands: One train = 800 cars off the road. More trains means reducing congestion for those who need to drive

Did you know?

The East-West Link is likely to <u>increase</u> traffic on already busy roads such as Hoddle Street and Chandler Highway

There are thousands more skilled, long term and sustainable jobs in public transport than road projects

The East West Link will be underwritten by taxpayers. If it is not profitable it will be us who compensates the private investers!

