



TRANSPORT

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We have already said no to east-west tunnel

Roads Minister Terry Mulder says the government wants "feedback" on the impact of the east-west link ("Talks on tunnel fears", 17/5). This is a gimmick as the minister must know full well that, in 2007, Melburnians said "no way" to Rod Eddington's similar version of the east-west link on account of the damage it would do to Royal Park and surrounding suburbs. Premier Brumby deleted it from his 2008 Transport Plan.

The revived east-west link threatens to destroy Royal Park as it will rip up the Ross Straw sports fields for up to five years; destroy the wetlands, specifically the storage pond where the on/off ramps leading north and south on CityLink will be constructed; wipe out the vast underground water storage tanks that supply Royal Park, Princes Park and boulevards/streets of Carlton and Parkville; result in compulsory acquisition of residential property in West Parkville; and cripple the State Netball and Hockey Centre and the Urban Camp for children as construction will block the one narrow access road for years, rendering them financially unviable. I could continue.

Julianne Bell, Protectors of Public Lands Victoria, Parkville

Gridlock is to be our lot

It may have escaped our road-obsessed Premier's attention but Friday's horrific B-double crash occurred on exactly that part of CityLink that his east-west link road would connect to. With the link in place, that incident would have jammed east-west link traffic as well, just as Monash Freeway troubles jam up CityLink traffic today. The idea of roads "backing up" other roads is fantasy. With politicians and bureaucrats alike ganging up to boost roads and shut down talk of rail extensions, another half-century of gridlock is our lot unless something changes.

Tony Morton, Public Transport Users Association

Police this dangerous tailgating

Until all investigation is complete, we will not know what caused the horrific accident on Friday morning. But as a daily user of that road, I can attest to the alarmingly prevalent practice of drivers changing lanes without any regard for those around them. It is commonplace for drivers to use the lanes that are moving quickly and then push in at the last moment when they want to exit at Dynon or Footscray roads. Further, drivers regularly use the emergency lane and on-ramps to "beat the queue" in the lane that will take them to the exits.

Earlier this year, it was reported that the government would introduce new legislation regarding tailgating. While the practice of tailgating has obvious perils, increasingly I find that leaving any room between my car and the one in front of me is to have it immediately taken by people changing lanes at the last minute. This road and others should be policed for dangerous driving caused by selfish drivers who want to jump the queue and who ignore road rules regarding emergency lanes.

Mary Dalmau, West Brunswick