



THE HON KEVIN ANDREWS MP
Federal Member for Menzies

MEDIA RELEASE

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COALITION TO FUND MISSING NORTH EAST LINK STUDY

“A re-elected Turnbull Government will provide \$5 million towards an options study for the vitally needed North East Link project to kick start necessary planning for the project,” the Liberal Member for Menzies, Kevin Andrews, announced today.

“Connecting the Northern Ring Road to Eastlink and/or the Eastern Freeway will complete the full upgrade of the M80 Metropolitan Ring Road,” said Mr Andrews. “The Turnbull Coalition’s investment in planning is the first necessary stage in delivering this missing link.”

Currently, there is no link between the M80 Metropolitan Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway / Eastlink (M3). This ‘missing link’ results in up to 40,000 vehicles per day travelling between the two freeways via local roads in the municipalities of Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik, including large numbers of heavy vehicles, which creates severe congestion and safety hazards.

“The missing link will relieve traffic congestion on Manningham and Bulleen Roads, Williamson Road and Fitzsimons Lane and at Warrandyte,” added Mr Andrews. “Local residents have been telling me that this is their number 1 traffic priority, along with the building of the East-West link.”

Infrastructure Australia describes the current route through local roads, spanning 9.5 km, as congested and operating close to capacity in peak periods, making it inadequate for supporting commercial and freight transport activities. The project is a priority initiative on the Infrastructure Australia priority list.

A direct connection between the two freeways will remove excess traffic from local roads, improving amenity and liveability in local communities.

“It’s important that we get on with planning work now, so the early work is done and the right detail is available to governments to make informed and responsible decisions around the delivery of the project,” Mr Andrews said.

The Turnbull Government is investing a total of \$7.6 billion in Victorian infrastructure. In addition, the Turnbull Government remains committed to the East West Link and will provide \$3 billion to the first Victorian Government willing to build this vital project.

In addition, the Turnbull Government has committed \$857.2 million for Melbourne Metro.