

Item 8.1 Parliamentarian and Departmental Letters received by the Mayor
 Appendix 1 Correspondence Inwards - Hon Luke Donnellan MP - Minister or Roads and Road Safety Minister for Ports - Dated 27 June 2016



Office of the Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Roads and Road Safety
 Minister for Ports

1 Spring Street
 Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia
 Telephone: +61 3 8392 6150
 DX 210292

MoH 369097

Ref: CMIN156296R

Cr Sophie Ramsey
 Mayor
 City of Melton
 PO Box 21
 MELTON VIC 3337



Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 2015 in support of the Western Distributor project and requesting that tolling for the project consider any implications for the Western Growth Corridor. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to reply.

Since your letter there has been considerable progress on developing plans for the Western Distributor. As you may be aware, in December 2015 the Victorian Government released its business case for the Western Distributor, which shows the project can deliver value for money for Victorians. The Government is now partnering with Transurban to deliver this important new infrastructure.

The Western Distributor Project involves widening the West Gate Freeway from 8-12 lanes between M80 and Williamstown Road, building a tunnel under Yarraville and an elevated road along Footscray Road, with direct links to the Port of Melbourne, Citylink and the western edge of the CBD.

The project will deliver immediate travel time savings of 20 minutes a day, provide a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge, take 6,000 trucks off the Bridge, and create 5,600 new jobs. The Western Distributor, including the Monash Freeway Upgrade, will reduce congestion from the west to the south east, improving traffic flow from Geelong to Pakenham.

On 14 April 2016, the Government released the first full designs for community feedback. The designs included two options for connecting the West Gate Freeway to the Western Distributor Tunnel. To get dangerous goods trucks that are unable to travel through a tunnel out of residential streets, the designs also included five ramp options to connect the West Gate Freeway directly to Hyde Street.

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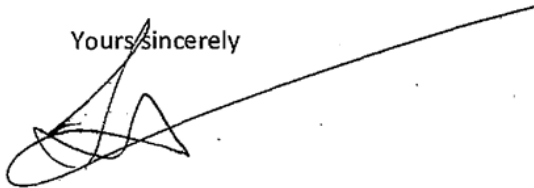
Consultation with the community, local government and industry is a critical part of the project. A total of seven public information sessions were held during April and early May to provide information to the community on the designs, and to receive feedback.

The tolls will be similar to those for other toll roads in Melbourne. The tolling strategy, including the tolling prices and points, will be confirmed when the final design and alignment is determined through the planning and consultation process, and in negotiation with Transurban. The tolling will seek to achieve the best possible outcome for the Western Distributor and the road network as a whole.

I encourage your Council and interested residents and businesses to participate in the planning process so that the project reflects a broad cross-section of community interests and needs, and provides the best possible outcomes for communities in Melbourne's west.

Thank you for your interest in planning Victoria's transport for the future.

Yours sincerely



Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

21/6/2016