

What is our Campaign 'NO' to the North-East Link about?

Q & A's

Q: Is Friends of Banyule affiliated with other groups?

A: Friends of Banyule have formed a coalition with other groups such as Warringal Conservation Society, Protectors of Public Lands and the Coalition of Transport Action Groups.

Q: What are of Friends of Banyule working with these groups, endeavouring to achieve and what are its main aims?

A: We have come together as a coalition to campaign to protect significant conservation areas in our municipality including Banyule Flats, Warringal parklands, Yarra Flats and Bolin Bolin Billabong and to oppose construction of a freeway/tunnel through these green open spaces which make up a major North-South wildlife corridor & recreation resource in Banyule and surrounds.

Q: Why are we campaigning against the tunnel?

A: The freeway and tunnel will do nothing to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Warming and will in fact add to it.

* We need to support modal shift and improvement our local public transport network to reduce dependence on private car usage.

* Building more freeways will not solve congestion in local areas (i.e. East Link). Additional traffic generated will be funneled into locations elsewhere causing further congestion and pollution on our road networks and in local areas.

* The tunnel and its construction will cause loss of amenity to existing parkland. 12 storey (30m) Exhaust vents will need to be built every 800m to 1km. Much of the length of the proposed link will be above ground as tunneling in this location would be prohibitively expensive and geologically difficult as it requires tunneling under the Yarra.

* The freeway will serve largely as a freight connection with few access/egress points along its route, which does little for resolving congestion on local roads.

* The freeway is likely to divide our community and result in local residents having difficulty in accessing public services and amenities such as schools, shops and transport (eg; Eastern Freeway/Burnley Tunnel).

* With a price tag currently estimated at 6 Billion Dollars there are cheaper and sustainable alternative transport solutions for our area i.e.; light rail connection from Clifton Hill to Doncaster along Eastern Freeway reserve, linking up with Bulleen Rd, improved bus/rail connections to facilitate better access to transport options.

* Transport management options should include limiting heavy vehicle usage eg; access times/maximum speeds/lane restrictions, etc, on arterial roads, such as Rosanna Rd & Greensbrough Rds.

Q: Why protect Banyule Flats & Warringal Parklands?

A: Our local Parklands and green open spaces hold significant environmental, historical and cultural significance. The area is home to the Heidelberg School Artists, Mc Cubbin, Conder Streeton etc as well as the Australian Modernists Nolan, Boyd & others at what is now the location of the Heide Gallery.

* In an age of shrinking backyards and an ever-increasing urbanized metropolis such as Melbourne, these natural spaces are much more than sanctuaries for our native wildlife and remnant flora - they are places for individuals, families and groups to relax, ride, walk, play, hold festivals and sometimes simply enjoy the tranquility that these green open spaces provide. For all the above reasons, of natural, cultural and social significance, they require our protection. The increasing impacts of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution as a result of continuing urban expansion, further strengthen the argument that building more freeways is not an appropriate direction to take at the expense of public green open space and the natural environment.

* Our aim is to give our natural spaces a voice, and to lobby Local, State and Federal governments to protect them for wildlife, for our community and for future generations, and to propose sustainable transport solutions to freeways.

[Click here for a Map of the North-East Link Freeway Route](#) which is based on the GHD Report and our discussions and briefings with relevant government agencies to date.

Q: For the freeway/tunnel to proceed, what changes to our landscape might this include?

A: From the various meetings and examination of government reports and documents we believe this may include the following:

- * Acquisition of land at Watsonia Barracks along Greensbrough Road and potential construction of above ground freeway along this section

- * Potential impact on land at Heide Museum of Modern Art at the tunnel exit points at Manningham Road

- * Likely loss of significant parts of current parkland and damage to the same caused by 'staging areas' for tunnel construction at the entry and exit points of the tunnel

- * Interchanges including over and underpasses that will have to be built at each end to allow entry and exit points from the tunnel/freeway

- * Potential compulsory Land acquisitions of residential properties, likely to be announced late in the process making it difficult for residents to adequately respond, with the government equivocating on how, when and precisely where, these will occur.

- * likely construction of fly-overs along above ground sections of freeway (Greensborough Road and Bulleen Road) and high and visibly intrusive sound walls along Bulleen Road, as well as potentially, along the green open space reserve from Lower Plenty Rd to Warringal Park.