

MEDIA RELEASE

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Committee for Melbourne says western section of the East-West Link is a key element in improving commuter congestion and productivity

The Napthine Government's announcement to start work on the western section of the East-West Link is a key element in genuinely improving both commuter congestion and productivity.

Committee for Melbourne CEO Kate Roffey says "This is a very welcome and long overdue announcement. Not only will this major project be good for job creation and economic stimulation, the western link is also a very important productivity-enhancing project.

"As frustrated commuters sit on the Westgate bridge behind trucks making their way slowly uphill five abreast, we forget that improving road transport capacity is not just about moving people more efficiently, it is also about moving freight more effectively."

We expect our fresh milk and bread to be on the supermarket shelf daily, and as congestion on our roads makes freight movement more difficult, the chances of our goods not arriving when we want them will likely increase.

Currently the freight industry is wholly dependent on the Westgate and M1 for east-west movement with over 2,700 tonnes per hour of goods being transported along that corridor alone. Not only do we need to provide relief along the Princes Highway and Westgate to allow for more efficient movement of people and freight, we need to create some redundancy for the Westgate Bridge itself, which is our only significant crossing over the Yarra.

A second Yarra crossing is a must, and providing a more dedicated option for truck movements between the M80, Princes Freeway, Port and M1 is essential to our freight task.

"That the Government has realised the importance of this project, and has indicated that it will be 'shovel ready' within a year is a good move forward for Melbourne", continued Ms Roffey.

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About Committee for Melbourne

Committee for Melbourne is all about Making Melbourne Better for all Melburnians. With over 130 member organisations, Committee for Melbourne is an active connector bringing together leaders of industry to engage in rigorous debate and share ideas and strategies for future growth and development. Working with, and on behalf of our members, the Committee aims to ensure Melbourne's challenges and opportunities are addressed in ways that keep our city vital, inclusive, progressive and sustainable.

As a not-for-profit member funded entity, the Committee is politically independent and entirely impartial, which allows us to freely and purposefully raise issues of importance to the economic, structural, social, and environmental growth and development of Greater Melbourne.