



Hon Jaala Pulford MP

Minister for Roads
Minister for Road Safety and the TAC
Minister for Fishing and Boating

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Cr Bob Turner
Mayor – Melton City Council
232 High Street
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Dear Cr Turner

Bob

Thank you for your letter dated 24 October 2019, regarding Westwood Drive in Burnside. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Victorian Government acknowledges that there is significant growth occurring within Melbourne's north and west and this is placing increasing pressure on the existing transport network to meet these demands. Government agencies, including the Department of Transport (DoT), continue to work together to determine infrastructure requirements that are needed to cater for this growth in the long-term.

As you may be aware, the Victorian Government is delivering a \$1.8 billion Western Roads Upgrades package. This includes eight priority road upgrades that will fix the roads the community and local business rely on every day. These upgrades will be delivered within five years, with the maintenance and rehabilitation continuing for a further 20 years, including on a broader network of 260 kilometres of existing roads. In addition, the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget included a massive investment in the Suburban Roads Upgrade, with over \$1 billion to be spent on widening and improving safety on roads across Melbourne's northern suburbs.

I acknowledge that the Palmers Road corridor (which Westwood Drive is part of) is an important north-south transport connection in Melbourne's west, linking the Calder Freeway to the Princes Freeway, and that ultimately the Palmers Road corridor will be a six-lane divided carriageway arterial road. This corridor will deliver significant capacity, efficiency and safety improvements as the population in the area continues to grow.

Thankyou for completing an important step in the construction of this corridor by completing the Westwood Drive bridge across Kororoit Creek in December 2018. DoT confirmed that, as expected, there has been an increase in traffic volumes since this connection was completed.



Traffic volumes are one of several factors that will be considered when prioritising future investments. Any proposal for improvement will be considered in a future program in a statewide context.

DoT advises me that one of its officers contacted Mr Luke Shannon of your office on 28 November 2019 and subsequently met with other council officers on 9 December 2019 to discuss this matter in more detail. DoT will continue to work with the council to progress this matter.

Should you require any further information, Mr Simon Basic, Manager, Transport Planning at DoT's Metropolitan North-West Region (Tel: 0408 559 253) would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



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19 / 12 / 2019