



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community transport group adds voice to Upgrade Western Highway

Members of Melton's Transport Community Reference Group have joined calls for urgent upgrades to the Western Highway in the City of Melton.

Melton City Council's *Upgrade Western Highway* campaign is calling on the Victorian and Australian Governments to upgrade the Western Highway to urban freeway standard within the City of Melton.

Madeleine Connor, member of the Transport Community Reference group, said sentiment across the community showed that the state of the Western Highway is a real concern to residents.

"Our rapid population growth is placing huge demands on existing roads," Ms Connor said.

"Urgent upgrades are needed to improve commuter safety, reduce congestion, and prevent the Western Highway from becoming gridlocked.

"Residents will also spend less time stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and more quality time with their families and friends."

Upgrade Western Highway calls for upgrades that include the construction of interchanges at Bulmans and Mt Cottrell Roads, and a pedestrian overpass at Arnolds Creek; along with road improvement works and the removal of at-grade infrastructure, like bus stops and driveways, between Deer Park and Melton West; along with future planning that would include the creation of additional lanes, an interchange at Harkness Road and an overpass at Paynes Road.

Mayor of the City of Melton, Cr Bob Turner, said that projected growth will place excessive burdens on existing highway infrastructure.

"The number of vehicles on the Western Highway will rise from 60,000 today, to 113,000 over the next 20 years," the Mayor said.

"The Western Highway won't cope with this increase in traffic, and is in desperate need of urgent upgrades."

Council is encouraging local residents, business owners and visitors to get behind the campaign and sign the petition demanding action from politicians.

Visit the website catchup.org.au/melton or fill out an *Upgrade Western Highway* postcard that you'll find throughout the community.

"The more signatures we collect, the louder our voice will be," Cr Turner said. "The louder our voice, the harder we will be to ignore."

The Upgrade Western Highway campaign is part of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA's) *Catch Up with the Outer Suburbs* campaign. For more information, go to catchup.org.au

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