

Media Release

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP

Leader of the House

Minister for the Coordination of Transport – COVID-19

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for Suburban Rail Loop



Friday, 24 July 2020

NORTH EAST LINK TO DELIVER MORE COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North East Link is set to deliver even more benefits for local residents with the Victorian Government to deliver a massive package of additional community upgrades within Manningham, Whitehorse and Boroondara.

The agreement with the three councils directly addresses issues arising from the Environment Effects Statement process and will ensure the councils have even more opportunities to provide input on the final design of the project.

In addition to the consultation processes already required under the Minister for Planning's Assessment of North East Link, Manningham, Whitehorse and Boroondara will have an opportunity to provide further input ahead of designs being finalised once a preferred bidder has been selected.

Manningham City Council has also secured funding towards a new cycling and pedestrian bridge over the Yarra River at Banksia Park, a commitment for new public open space and planning and development work for the future upgrade of Templestowe Road.

Residents in the City of Whitehorse will benefit from major upgrades to the Elgar Park sporting precinct, open space enhancements and upgrades to cycling facilities.

The City of Boroondara has secured an agreement that the Freeway Golf Course will be maintained as an 18-hole course, with NELP shelving plans to relocate the Boroondara Tennis Centre to that site.

The Government will work with Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia to identify a new location for a regional tennis facility. Residents in Boroondara will also benefit from more public open space and upgrades to pedestrian safety at Bellevue and Greythorn Shopping Centres.

Following a successful mediation, Manningham, Whitehorse and Boroondara have opted to withdraw from the Supreme Court challenge to the project's planning approvals.

When complete, North East Link will take 15,000 trucks off local roads in the north east, slash more than an hour off a return trip to the airport from the eastern suburbs and will deliver more than 25km of new and upgraded walking and cycling paths.

Quote attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan

"We've worked with local councils every step of the way and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Manningham, Whitehorse and Boroondara City Council as we deliver North East Link."

Quote attributable to Manningham Mayor Cr Paul McLeish

"We're pleased to have negotiated improved consultation commitments and secured our large sporting and recreation precinct in the Bulleen project area, amongst many other outcomes. Council will continue to represent our communities interests during the design consultations which lie ahead. "

Quote attributable to Whitehorse Mayor Cr Sharon Ellis

“We’re pleased at securing these additional opportunities for consultation, so our community’s concerns can be heard. The commitment from the State Government to a range of local Whitehorse projects, from playgrounds to cycling trails and sports fields, is a significant step in the right direction.”

Quote attributable to Boroondara Mayor Cynthia Watson

Council and the Victorian Government have worked together to ensure our community continues to enjoy treasured open space in Boroondara. The agreement with the government provides the Boroondara community and Council with the opportunity to provide input into the final design of the North East Link.