

# Office of the Mayor Cr Anne-Marie Cade

27 June 2024

The Hon Danny Pearson MP  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop  
Assistant Treasurer  
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

Via email: [danny.pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:danny.pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister

## LXRP's Caulfield East cycling corridor

I refer to your letter of 24 June 2024 regarding the Level Crossing Removal Project's (LXRP) cycling connection between Glen Huntly and Caulfield stations as part of the Glen Huntly Level Crossing Removal Project.

We are very disappointed to hear the LXRP will not investigate Council's recommendations, put in good faith, to reduce parking loss and boost safety through the detailed design phase. Your decision to dismiss the community's suggestions without further consideration is disrespectful to local residents, after more than 900 people took the time to share their views and suggestions.

An officer recommendation in a report is not a Council decision and it is disingenuous to suggest Council has failed to make a decision for two years. Prioritising an officer recommendation over the resolution of an elected Council that has taken into consideration the views of the community is undemocratic. Council's decision was to provide in-principle support for the Queens Avenue separated cycling corridor, while requesting the community's suggestions to minimise the impact of the project be investigated.

Council's community engagement programs on the LXRP's cycling corridor in January and April 2024 were conducted in good faith to give the community the opportunity to have their say for the first time on the LXRP's proposal. Council must consult with our community under the *Local Government Act 2020* about issues and decisions that impact them. We take this role seriously and are absolutely committed to transparent community engagement. Pausing the project to allow the community to provide meaningful feedback was appropriate and reflected our legislative obligations.

Of most concern is that you have also dismissed the Council and community's recommendations without evidence. Our request for evidence and greater transparency around the LXRP's view that moving the kerb on the western side of Queens Avenue would require major and untenable disruption to underground infrastructure has gone unanswered.

We do not accept their assessment and feel that we have been left with no choice but to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to better understand how this assessment was made. Dismissing informed recommendations from community and Council without evidence demonstrates a concerning lack of accountability and raises questions about the integrity of the LXRPs detailed design phase.

While we welcome the news that revegetation works on Derby Crescent are imminent, the LXRPs has given no indication that they will meaningfully engage with residents of Derby Crescent to inform the proposed revegetation works – adding to our concerns around their accountability and transparency. Council was not given the courtesy of receiving your response before it was communicated with residents through a letterbox drop. This has added to community concern and frustration.

This has been a difficult time for our community. Given our grave concerns around process, Council's focus will now be on holding the LXRPs to account through the detailed design process to ensure the process is transparent and the design is safe.

We note your comments around working with us through the detailed design phase. However, given the complete disregard to date of Council's adopted position and community views, if we are to have our officers participate in discussions in good faith, we need a level of trust and assurance from you that Council will have a level of genuine influence and the process will be transparent.

Councillors have instructed officers that they must bring the outcome of the detailed design process to Council once it is completed. We will consider any further response to your plans at that time.

We believe there is still an opportunity for you and the LXRPs to do the right thing for the community. For the community to have any faith in the LXRPs, their detailed design process must be transparent and look at every available option to minimise the impact on local amenity, and parking in particular.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can better serve the community's interests in delivering your project outcomes and am happy to make myself available at a time convenient to you. My office can be contacted on 9524 3333.

Yours sincerely



Cr Anne-Marie Cade

**MAYOR**

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**Copy to:** The Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP, Member for Oakleigh  
Ryan Batchelor MLC, Member for Southern Metropolitan Region  
Matthew Gault, Chief Executive Officer, Level Crossing Removal Project