

Embargo until 2 June

Mayors say YES to the best for the WEST

LAUNCH WITH THREE MAYORS

Monday 2 June, 11 am, Werribee station, inbound suburban platform

The Mayors of Wyndham, Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong today launched an online campaign calling for better public transport in Melbourne's West.

The Mayors want the people of the West to get online to help get public transport on track.

The councils have joined forces with the Metropolitan Transport Forum's pt4me2 campaign to improve public transport.

pt4me2 is asking people to join an online petition calling for a range of improvements to public transport in the West

The petition is at www.pt4me2.org.au

Top of the mayors' wish list is improved train services to Werribee, reservation of the land to construct the Tarneit rail extension, better buses in Moonee Valley and electrification of the Sunbury line.

Wyndham Mayor Cr Kim McAliney said improving train services for Wyndham residents should be an immediate priority.

'Wyndham is Victoria's fastest growing municipality. With the population set to almost double over the next 20 years, Wyndham requires a reliable train service to provide an affordable alternative for many Wyndham families, students and workers.'

'We need more trains running on the Werribee line. The growing population and increase in petrol prices are placing great pressure on existing services. Improved reliability, additional services, increased commuter carparking and appropriate funding to provide stations at Point Cook and Werribee West are urgently required.'

Cr McAliney said that Wyndham Council welcomed the new Tarneit extension proposed in the Eddington report, but stressed that better public transport was needed well before 2018.

Moonee Valley Mayor Cr Paul Giuliano said that better bus services across the West were important.

'Top of our agenda is a better bus interchange at Moonee Ponds.'

Cr Giuliano said he was keen to see the results of a recent review of busses conducted by the Victorian Government.

'Across the West, we want more frequent bus services particularly express buses into the CBD along freeways and better services for areas such as Avondale Heights.

'It's all about making public transport more accessible to more people,' he said.

Maribyrnong Mayor, Cr Michelle MacDonald, said better public transport for the West will reduce traffic passing through inner suburbs.

'Every extra commuter on a train, tram or bus, is one less car that needs to crawl through inner suburbs like Footscray.'

Cr MacDonald said Maribyrnong City Council was keen to see Footscray station redeveloped as a modern public transport hub.

'We're right behind efforts to make public transport more attractive and usable,' she said.

More information:

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