

Media Release

4 May 2011

Green light for rail to Doncaster, Rowville and the airports

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) has welcomed the first Baillieu budget as a positive start on delivering the government's public transport promises.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky is pleased to see the Regional Rail Link maintained and funding studies for rail lines to Doncaster, Rowville and the airports.

Cr Fristacky also welcomed the commitment to a Public Transport Development Authority and Metropolitan Planning Strategy to better guide Melbourne's growth. 'There is a real opportunity for transport, the missing link of Melbourne 2030, to be better embedded in planning,' she said.

'There is a lot to be pleased about in this budget – new trains, new stations, station upgrades and grade separations.

'But buses and bicycles seem to have been overlooked. Where are the funds to implement the Metropolitan Bus Reviews? And there is a little for bicycles, one of Melbourne's real strengths and the most sustainable transport mode. Bicycle journeys to work have a similar share as bus journeys, yet lacks the funding to make cycling a safer transport mode.

'With such a clear community mandate for better public transport, it is also concerning to see so many 'shovel-ready' road projects in the budget, while public transport projects – rail to Doncaster, Rowville and the airports – are only in the planning stage.

'However, it is a good start and the MTF is looking forward to working closely with the new government for successful implementation'.

The MTF represents 21 Councils covering 2.25 Million people in metropolitan Melbourne.

Media enquiries:

**Cr Jackie Fristacky, Chair Metropolitan Transport Forum
0412 597 794**