



LAUNCH NOTES 18 February 2010

We're asking Melbournians the question ...

What moves you, what moves your vote?

It's clear from the Altona by-election that public transport has become a headline issue.

As Melbourne's population grows toward 5 million, transport will become an even bigger issue.

Concern about carbon pollution, petrol prices and increased road congestion will make better public transport an even more essential part of a liveable, sustainable Melbourne.

It's a fact that public transport will need to move more people in the future.

The key question, for all political parties, is what PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROMISES will move voters in November's election?

The Brumby government says, here's the Victorian Transport Plan with billions invested in transport – the biggest ever investment in public transport. But even the Premier concedes that progress is not fast enough.

The Baillieu opposition is yet to release a comprehensive transport policy, but has unveiled a transport safety plan and criticized the government about overcrowding, unreliability and delays.

The Greens transport policy sees public transport as a crucial ingredient to reducing carbon emissions and a much higher priority than new freeways/toll ways.

pt4me2 is a project of the MTF, which represents 18 Melbourne councils on public transport issues. We are not affiliated with any party and we exist solely to promote better transport on behalf of local government.

We do support greater public debate and discussion about public transport, especially ways to help make public transport more attractive.

What moves your vote? is an online project that makes it easier for the public to send a message to all the political parties.

During February, March and April, the public are urged to use the pt4me2 online survey to say what public transport improvements would influence their vote.

The surveys look at a range of improvements, including many that could be implemented within the next term of government – such as increasing peak hour train services, extending the hours of bus services and increasing discounts for off-peak travel.

The survey also looks at local public transport improvements in different parts of Melbourne. The surveys are a good way for the public to voice their support for specific local improvements.

Why participate?

People know that public transport is a good thing. It gets cars off the road, carries people faster, creates less pollution and is safer.

In Sydney, a recent survey quoted in the SMH found that ALMOST two thirds of Sydneysiders support "high investment in public transport" - and they are prepared to pay for it. One of the most extensive surveys of commuter needs found the public is desperate for improved train, bus, light rail and ferry services - and even drivers, who rarely use mass transit, strongly favour better public transport.

But the political debate about public transport gets confusing when governments and oppositions start talking about billions of dollars, mountains of statistics and grand schemes that may never happen.

Also, the political debate about public transport often does not match community concerns about overcrowding, reliability and safety.

THE STARK REALITY is that the public transport network has not kept up to pace with Melbourne's growth – leaving most of the city beyond the reach of public transport.

What moves your vote? looks at the practical changes and local projects that would attract support from the public. It's not about who promises to spend the most or even build the biggest, longest or fastest thing.

It's about suggestions from the public about action that the state government could take to make public transport work for more people.

Go online, and let the major parties know what moves your vote.

