



MEDIA RELEASE

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RACV survey unequivocal proof North East Link needed **Shows truck curfews are an abject failure**

An RACV survey showing six of Melbourne's top 10 traffic congestion hotspots are in the transport corridor spanning Clifton Hill through to Greensborough and Templestowe in the city's north east is unequivocal proof the missing North East Link must be prioritised for construction.

The survey also suggests discriminatory night curfews on heavy vehicles using many of these roads have failed because all they have achieved is to create more congestion during the day.

The annual RACV/Leader News Redspot survey identified the number one traffic congestion hot-spot is the meeting of the Eastern Freeway, Alexandra Parade and Hoddle St in Clifton Hill. Five other intersections in the top 10 are on roads that cars and heavy vehicles regularly use to traverse between the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen, including:

- Rosanna Rd/Jika St/Dora St/Banksia St Lower/Heidelberg Rd (Heidelberg) (2)
- Chandler Highway between Heidelberg Rd and Princess St (Alphington/Kew) (3)
- Fitzsimmons Lane between Main Rd and Porter St (Eltham/Templestowe) (5)
- Greensborough Highway between Metropolitan Ring Rd and Grimshaw St (Greensborough) (6)
- Eastern Freeway/Bulleen Rd/Thompsons Rd (Balwyn North) (8)

"These are all key arterial routes that cars and trucks use to get between the Eastern Freeway and the M80," said Victorian Transport Association CEO Peter Anderson. "That they have dominated the top 10 of this comprehensive annual RACV report should send a clear signal to federal and state legislators that the North East Link must be urgently prioritised for construction.

"The results also show night curfew trials on trucks in the area have failed and that all they really achieve is to increase congestion during the day. The VTA has consistently said that operators will use other roads or delay their travel to the morning peak, because they still have to move freight in spite of the curfew. The results of this survey appear to validate that."

Mr Anderson said that with bi-partisan agreement between the Labor and Liberal/National parties in Victoria that the North East Link is needed, and a \$5 million election commitment from the Commonwealth to study possible routing options, there has never been a better opportunity for legislators to act in the best interests of Victorians.

"The North East Link will create massive productivity improvements for freight operators by creating a seamless north to south-east connection, and by removing up to 40 per cent of heavy vehicle traffic from suburban roads in the area. The VTA urges state and federal politicians to put their differences aside and reach a consensus position on the North East Link, backed up by serious funding for this vital piece of transport infrastructure," Mr Anderson said.

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