

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 543
Petition Sponsored by: Sonja Terpstra
Directed to: Hon Danny Pearson MP
Tabled on: 2 May 2024

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the Victorian Big Build Level Crossing Removal Project in Dublin Road, Ringwood East which is currently under construction. However, this multi-million dollar upgrade does not include toilet facilities, which should be a basic right, the Government is missing the mark. This is an amazing opportunity to significantly improve the functionality, character and pride of place for Ringwood East's locals, visitors and businesses for years to come.

This train station and public space must be better than before, designed to provide comfort, accessibility, safety, inclusiveness, health & wellbeing for all in our community. We fully anticipate more foot traffic from the new apartments and 460 car spaces at the new train station. This new public space must not be trapped in the past, it must change and adapt for the future. A newly designed concourse will connect the north and south residential areas, shops, health services and platforms, the missing piece of the puzzle is toilet facilities.

All communities face challenging members, prioritising the needs of the majority over concerns that relate to the few is crucial. Located across from shops, this bustling concourse and forecourt will be filled with foot traffic every day, evolving into a vibrant hub fostering community connectivity, economic growth, and local pride. As community members urgently seek restroom access from shops, resorting to makeshift solutions (trees, before construction removed them) and facing accidents in stores, the question becomes... if not now, then when?

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to change the design of the development of the new Ringwood East Station to follow its own urban design principles and objectives, include toilet facilities and ensure that the design reflects the needs and aspirations of the community that it will serve for many years to come.

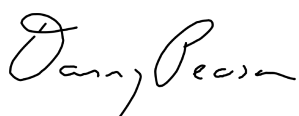
Reply:

Concept designs for the new Ringwood East Station were released to the community in 2022, which confirmed the brand-new station would continue to operate as a local station. This is in accordance with the Department of Transport and Planning Station Classification Level. Toilets are only available at stations which are staffed from first to last train service.

Existing public toilets, which include accessible features, are maintained by Maroondah City Council. These public toilets are located within the Railway Avenue trader precinct, a short walk from Ringwood East Station.

The new Ringwood East Station will open in early July, with two entrances, lifts and stairs. The new station will also retain the same number of carparks as existed prior to works commencing, with improved lighting and CCTV and more accessible car parking. The new station will complement a boom-gate free Dublin Road

that will help make the Lilydale Line the first rail line to be level crossing free in 2024, a year ahead of schedule.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danny Pearson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danny" and the last name "Pearson" clearly distinguishable.

Hon Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

13/06/2024