

From: Tracey Lesley Brewer [REDACTED]

Subject: Pollution Control

Hi Michael,

Melbourne's pollution is not new. It was easily observed from Eltham 30 years ago as a big grey blob above the city and the inner suburbs, every day.

When driving around Eltham and Research it was very noticeable, therefore It is not going to disappear overnight.

Our successive State Governments have not been keeping our road systems up to date, let alone planning new Freeways for the future, nor planning to permanently decentralise the City of Melbourne. Now we have created serious road access difficulties everywhere. These difficulties are not just around the inner Melbourne suburbs, they cause havoc up to 40 ks or more out of Melbourne.

Note when holidays occurred for 3 or 4 days in a row, most of the smog disappeared (then).

As a Worksafe Inspector (Construction) driving up to 80,000ks a year (from 1986 to 2006) around the inner and outer Northern and Eastern suburbs, I was well aware that we had no alternative roads to any of our important destinations, so as to disperse the traffic away from the City and inner suburbs and/or to provide an alternative access route if an accident occurred, anywhere along the miles and miles of roads ahead of us. WE STILL DON'T.

The rail system is great, but the time travelling into the City from most of our outer suburbs is very prohibitive, and families with children need to start their day driving to childminding/kindergarten centres and, “before and after” school programs.

Heavy traffic and no alternative routes, have led to travelling times for every car/truck being on the road for much much longer than they were. This is not necessary, but has occurred due to lack of planning and installing new Freeways and bypasses. Therefore we have greater exhaust pollution into the atmosphere than ever before.

Traffic from each side of Melbourne, virtually has to travel into Melbourne, to either go to the other side of the City or to travel to the far North of the City.

The Ring Road was years behind when it was finished, I worked on it, drove on it, and drove around it.

- New Freeways need to be constructed from as far out as Warragul, (which isn't very far out these days, as people travel into the City every day from Warragul, Moe, Morwell and Traralgon) to form a direct link to The Hume Highway, well north of Craigieburn.

- A new Freeway needs to be constructed from Werribee, directly to this same location on the Hume Highway.

Access to Tullamarine is very limited without these extra routes, and flights can be missed if an accident occurs anywhere along the many miles of our few existing routes.

- The Government many years ago, attempted to decentralise some of the City Office infrastructure. This needs to be rebooted, and incentives for office workers and manufacturing, to move out of the City AND STAY OUT, should be implemented. I'm suggesting

Bacchus Marsh, Whittlesea, and Pakenham. These locations are slightly off the Highways/Freeways, and therefore, shouldn't cause huge delays to the through traffic.

• There is no reason why any of our hospitals should be City based. There are far too many in the City. They all want to expand, and there is no-where to go, and the property is not cheap. Access to them and parking around them is very very prohibitive, and expensive. Expansion at outer locations should not be any problem whatsoever. This has been creating far more unacceptable stress for Doctors and Nurses than they deserve. If the Government calls the shots, the hospitals will have to decentralise, The City only needs 4 or 5 Emergency Wards at strategic locations, around the perimeter of the City Block.

• Specialist Treatment Hospitals at Warragul, Whittlesea, Bacchus Marsh, Werribee and Traralgon could be staffed with high quality doctors, which will encourage people to move into those centres, and be assured of high level Medical assessments and outcomes, which are not available now, regardless of what the experts say.

• More than 60% of our ship cargo goes into storage in the Eastern suburbs, thus requiring Dock Staff and cargo transporters to travel across the City to the docks every day and night. Imagine how much less Transporters and Dock Workers cars would be going into and/or through the City, if The Port of Hastings and/or The Port at Crib Point, started receiving all of their share of the cargo and passenger Ships

• If Essendon airport were to be turned into residential land, and a new International Airport was built at Garfield/Koo-wee-rup, how many less cars would be travelling into the City, and how many more

City employees would be travelling by train/tram into the city.. Fewer cars using the Westgate Bridge (at least for a short while)

• All the travellers and Airport Staff, and all the trucks carrying air cargo would now go “out” to the Airport, or stop at the new Airport, well out of the City. Creating less traffic on our currently overloaded roads into/through the City.

• All the nearby country towns for miles around, would receive huge financial boosts and employment opportunities.

• All of these suggestions above should be in place NOW. It takes a minimum of 5 years planning to draw up and approve any new Freeway, and approximately ANOTHER 4 to 5 years to build one. Eg Eastern Freeway extension from Springvale Road to Bulleen Road.

Thank you for your time. Tracey Brewer