submission for the inquiry on growing the suburbs: infrastructure and business development in outer suburban Melbourne

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to:
osisdc
07/12/2011 02:59 AM

Warren Stevens
7th December 2011

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to submit my concerns about the lack of infrastructure to the suburb of Doreen on the outer North-East of Melbourne.

**Primary School**

- The Laurimar Primary School opened in 2009 with just over 100 students and looking at current estimates will have over 800 students for the 2012 year.
- Student numbers outgrew the built classrooms within 2 years and many classes are now operating out of portables brought in to accomodate the rapid growth.
- 8 portable units are now on site each housing 2 classes for a total of 16 classrooms operating out of portables.
- Growth within the suburb will continue to rise as a massive number of blocks are still to be sold meaning student numbers can expect to rise to a number beyond the capacity of available space and resources.
- Rapid growth means that available funding to the school is stretched as resources by necessity are diverted to creating all of the infrastructure & items needed to accommodate additional students.

Laurimar Primary School by necessity needs extra funding to help accommodate and teach the students in an atmosphere conducive to learning. New schools will also be needed in the area to help alleviate the issue of overcrowding.

**Secondary College**

- Currently Doreen has no public Secondary College for the rapidly growing population.
- Driving distance to the nearest public Secondary College is more than 10km.
- The lack of a public Secondary College is forcing parents to send their children to private institutions even though this may result in financial hardship in some cases.
- The only other option is a sizeable commute during the school rush hour on roads which are not designed for the expanding population or which are undergoing lengthy roadworks.

Doreen needs a Secondary College to be built to accommodate the rapidly growing population. With so many primary school students now coming through the system this is becoming increasingly urgent.

**Transport**

- The population in Mernda and Doreen continues to grow rapidly but transport options have not kept pace with this expansion.
- The rail lines are currently being extended to South Morang but not to the proposed site of the Woolworths Mernda Town Centre which seems like a lost opportunity to provide necessary infrastructure in a cost effective way.
- Buses are not a good substitute due to the distance into town, roadworks causing traffic delays and congestion creating long travel times for this method of transport.
- Duplication of Plenty Road is not being extended to Bridge Inn road which again seems like a lost oppurtunity to create necessary infrastructure in a cost effective way.

Continuation of the extension of the rail line from South Morang to Mernda will become ever more important as will the duplication of Plenty Road to Bridge Inn Road.

Yours Sincerely
Warren Stevens