

Council tries to track down train promise

A TRAIN extension to Epping North is needed to deal with skyrocketing population growth, Whittlesea Council says.

The proposed train line would extend from Lalor to Epping North, connecting to the existing train station at Donnybrook, used on the Melbourne-to-Sydney train line.

The council said the most recent extension of the urban growth boundary, which now includes Donnybrook, justified the train line, with the council estimating 15,000 people will

move into the area. "The recent expansion of the UGB has strengthened the case for an extension of the train line, as there is now a larger future catchment that will need to be serviced by a good level of public transport," Whittlesea planning and development director Justin O'Meara said.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder was unable to comment on specific transport projects but recognised the added pressure the extended UGB put on transport. "There's no doubt there's

a lot of pressure on infrastructure with extending the urban growth boundary, and it's something we'll be looking to address as we move forward," Mr Mulder said.

A station at Epping North would serve the Aurora housing estate, built by the state government's development agency, VicUrban, and marketed as a sustainable community to be connected with a train line. Although VicUrban put land aside for a public train, no promises have been made since.

