

Fund O'herns Rd - Hume Freeway Interchange in Epping North now!

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria

This Petition of residents of the City of Whittlesea, in particular Epping North, draws to the attention of the House, the significant social and economic disadvantage faced by residents due to the lack of services and infrastructure in Epping North.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria urge the State Government to resolve to immediately fund (in combination with the Federal Government where applicable):

1. The design and construction of the northern and southern ramps connecting O'Herns Road with the Hume Freeway (a full diamond interchange),
2. The duplication of the remaining section of single carriageway of O'Herns Road between the Hume Freeway and Redding Rise, and;
3. The four lane carriageway of Edgars Road between Cooper Street and O'Herns Road.

Why is this important?

Currently, the 2 lane rural-standard O'Herns Road crosses over the Hume Freeway in Epping North but has no freeway entry or exit ramps. Edgars Road, a 4-lane divided arterial road linking Mahoneys Road and the Metropolitan Ring Road in the south with the growing industrial and residential areas around Epping/ Epping North, ends at Cooper Street and then starts again in the Places Victoria 'Aurora' residential development in Epping North. As a result of these missing road links, nearly 3,000 Epping North residents are forced onto the already congested Epping Road-High Street or Miller Street each day in order to get onto Cooper Street and the Hume Freeway.

The affected section of Epping Road-High Street, immediately south of O'Herns Road, is a 2-lane, rural-standard road (with open drains and poor shoulders) which carries around 17,000 vehicles daily, significantly more than its intended capacity. A great deal of costly time-wasting in morning and afternoon peak hour traffic on Epping Road-High Street and Miller Street in Epping could be avoided if vehicles could enter the Hume Freeway from O'Herns Road rather than from Cooper Street. Once the Melbourne Wholesale Market in Cooper Street, Epping begins operation in 2013, the need for completing Edgars Road will be even more critical.

The construction of the missing section of Edgars Road and of a full diamond interchange at the intersection of the Hume Freeway and O'Herns Road (with simultaneous duplication of the remaining single lane section of O'Herns Road) will create the following benefits:

- Provide Epping North residents with a local entry point to the Hume Freeway (which is only a two minute drive away yet routinely takes 20 minutes to reach at present),
- Create safer road conditions on Epping Road- High Street by reducing traffic volumes,
- Create better road links with community services in Epping and Thomastown
- Support greater local economic activity in the Cooper Street Employment Area, which includes the Wholesale Market
- Allow for the immediate creation of an alternative and efficient north-south bus route, further cutting congestion on Epping Road and High Street
- Provide easier access to the Northern Hospital and the nearby medical precinct
- Allow for improved local public transport access

It is understood that the Federal Government is sympathetic to funding the connection to the Hume Freeway and that the City of Whittlesea Council has raised the subject with the Victorian State Government in terms of a State contribution to this funding. Without State Government funding these projects can't go ahead- please sign this petition to let our politicians know we need their support- NOW!

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