

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Adjournment Debate

Response to an Adjournment Debate matter raised by Ms Jenny Mikakos MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan, on 21 February 2013, regarding road infrastructure in Whittlesea.

Reply:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Victorian Government recognises the development needs of the Epping area and the need for transport infrastructure to facilitate such development. The Government has confirmed budget funding of \$7.5 million to widen Cooper Street between Edgars Road and the Hume Freeway. This project will improve travel times on this key east-west route and provide better access for the community and industry to the new Melbourne Markets. VicRoads expects construction to be completed in early 2014.

The Victorian Government's 2012 Priority Infrastructure submission to Infrastructure Australia included several projects to respond to growth pressures including upgrades to the Hume Freeway, Western Freeway and the Calder Freeway, as well as a Growth Area Priority Transport Package.

Planning for major road improvements, such as the Hume Freeway – O'Herns Road Interchange and the duplication of Epping Road will be undertaken in this context, and also with regard to the objectives of the Victorian Government's Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

The 2046 date was advised by Growth Areas Authority as to the year in which Melbourne's population would reach 6 million, the Northern Growth Corridor would be fully developed and as a result the O'Herns Road interchange, the O'Herns Road duplication and the Edgars Road extension would all be required.

This is not to suggest these projects are not needed at an earlier date, however, as no interim modelling was undertaken (i.e. 2020, 2030 etc.) VicRoads has not determined a time-frame in which these projects must be delivered to support this growth.

The extension of Edgars Road between Cooper Street and O'Herns Road lies within the Cooper Street Employment Area, and will initially be constructed as a single carriageway local road.

A Development Contribution Plan has been established for the Cooper Street Employment Area, which requires the provision of land and construction of the first carriageway of Edgars Road between Cooper Street and O'Herns Road, to be undertaken as part of ongoing development in this precinct. The Whittlesea City Council is responsible for the implementation of these developer-funded works.

Development within the Cooper Street Employment Area has not progressed sufficiently to enable the implementation of the Development Contribution Plan requirements, including land and the first carriageway for the Edgars Road extension. The timing of these works will be dependent on the rate of development in this area.



Terry Mulder MP
Minister for Roads