

Aurora estate residents in push for extension to Epping North

Area's rail wait

EPPING North residents are still waiting for a train that never comes.

The Aurora Community Association, made up of residents in the Aurora estate, will use the November state election to launch a fresh push for the Epping North rail extension.

President Brad Costin said a rail solution to Epping North's growing transport woes was needed sooner rather than later.

"The projected population for Epping North is 40,000 and if we don't start looking at ways for those households to get better transport options, then it's not going to be a pretty sight," he said.

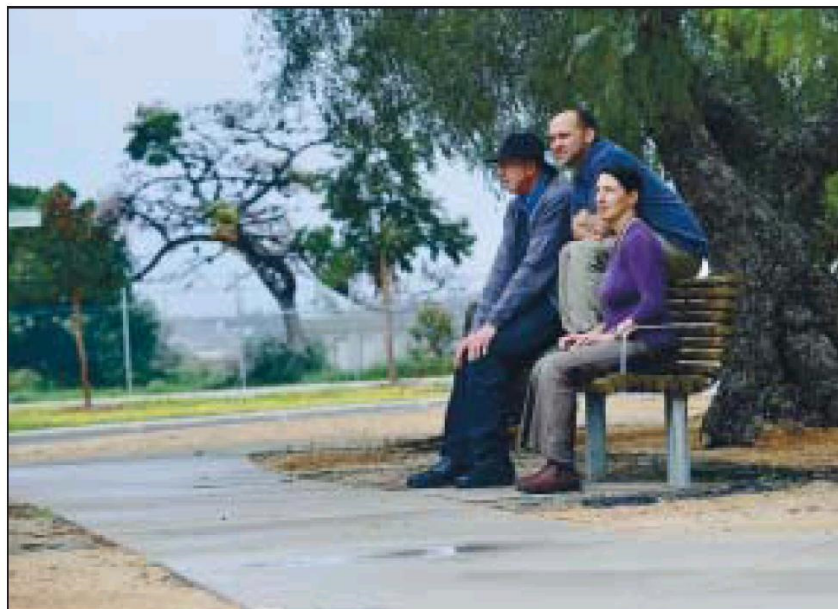
"The works at Miller St are going to help a bit. But it's not going to cope with future demand."

Original plans of Aurora before 2006 showed a rail line branching off the Epping line at Lalor, with new stations at Epping Plaza, Aurora and Epping North.

But the reality is different, with the Epping North extension on hold indefinitely.

Aurora resident and association member Tony Francis said the State Government had been neglectful in its approach to addressing road and transport issues in the north, including the 540 Aurora households.

"The State Government big picture approach of focusing on more and hugely expensive freeways contributes greatly to this neglect, especially when the freeways con-



Aurora Community Association members Brad Costin, Tony Francis and Cara Horner.

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tinue to result in more of the congestion than they are supposed to eliminate," he said.

"Until the State Government does something effective about the vested interests, there is little chance that the major transport problems will be effectively solved.

"Especially in a world of looming peak oil prices that are likely to discourage typical road traffic."

Mr Costin said there was a lot of support among Aurora residents for the railway.

State Government spokesman

Chris Owner said it was focused on the South Morang rail extension project.

"There are no plans to extend the rail line to Aurora or Epping North," he said.

Anyone interested in supporting the Aurora Community Association's campaign, email auroracommunityassociation@gmail.com



Does Epping North need a rail line? Post your comments at whittlesealeader.com.au