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# Cycle of hazards leaves residents dirty over roads

RESIDENTS of an Epping North housing estate want someone held responsible for the “dirty and dangerous” construction materials left on their roads.

Aurora Community Association vicepresident Cara Horner said residents would be writing to Whittlesea Council and developer VicUrban demanding the rocks and dirt spilt by construction vehicles along the estate’s roads be cleaned up more regularly.

“The safety of the roads has been a big concern for Aurora residents,” Ms Horner said. “There’s a lot of rubble on the roads and it’s a real hazard, especially for cyclists.”

Aurora resident and commuter cyclist Stuart Twyford said he crashed his bike on a muddy section of the road in May, damaging his knee and leaving him unable to ride for a month.

He said since then roads like Rockfield Street and Lyndarum Drive had deteriorated further and another accident was waiting to happen.

Mr Twyford said he was disappointed that in an estate promoting green transport options, cycling had become so dangerous.

“What we need is a street sweeper, especially along the bike lanes, because the cars sweep all the dirt and stones to the side of the road,” Mr Twyford said.

Whittlesea Council answered initial complaints by saying a street sweeper serviced the estate every six weeks, but residents said that was insufficient considering the high levels of construction and related traffic in the area.

Aurora development director Brian Marshall said management was “aware and concerned” about the issue, but that it was the contractors’ responsibility to ensure the space around their building sites was kept clean and roads were a council responsibility.

Whittlesea Council’s acting local laws manager, Wayne Bullock, said the council was “checking new development areas”, reminding construction workers about the need for road cleaning and imposing fines where necessary.

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