

Bus shortage drives folk to cars

BY REBECCA THISTLETON

A lack of buses is making evening peak hour a battle for North Epping residents, according to the Aurora Community Association.

More buses connecting new estates with train stations would make commuting easier for residents of Melbourne's fastest-growing areas, said association spokeswoman Cara

Horner. But no funding for extra buses has been allocated in the government's 2011-12 budget.

Reservoir Bus Company managing director Russell Ward said the company was assessing the area's needs. By extending services, he said residents would be encouraged to use public transport rather than cars.

Ms Horner said North Epping residents averaged 2.3 cars per house-

hold, one of the highest in the state, which she attributed to infrequent bus services.

Yan Yean MP Danielle Green said Epping North was one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Australia. "The only way that roads and public transport can keep up with the demand ... is for the state government to put funds into roads and public transport every year," she said.