



# Media release

Monday 17 March 2014

## ***Access Denied* for residents of Epping North**

The Aurora Community Association represents residents in Epping North and Wollert on the Northern fringe of Melbourne in the City of Whittlesea. These residents were partly attracted to the area as far back as 2006 with promises of public transport and road infrastructure that have mostly not been met.

Successive state governments have failed to deliver planned basic arterial roads and public transport in Epping North and the City of Whittlesea more broadly. This has been confirmed in a report by the Victorian Auditor General in August 2013 and highlighted in February last year when the large grassfires threatened the area and the roads had chronic congestion.

The unmet promises and the substantial population increases, both locally and further afield, have led to increasingly heavy vehicle use of local roads.

A great deal of costly time-wasting in peak hour stop-start traffic on Epping Road-High Street and Miller Street in Epping could be avoided if vehicles enter the Hume Freeway from O'Herns Road. Miller Street was not initially designed as a main road and the increasing congestion along the road has adversely affected local businesses.

The O'Herns Road Hume Freeway Interchange would greatly assist in Epping becoming the principal activity centre it was planned to be. Business growth could enable a sizeable increase in the employment of local residents and a sizeable decrease in road congestion because of the resulting reduction of local resident travel.

A huge amount of time, effort and money has been put into the relocation of Melbourne Wholesale Fruit Vegetable and Flower Market from Footscray to Epping. This Market will generate a great deal of extra traffic from delivery trucks and customers. The relatively inexpensive additional investment for the interchange would substantially increase the chances of a successful market relocation to Epping.

Aurora Community Association President Toni-Marie Wuelfert said that the O'Herns Road Hume Freeway Interchange "is not the only infrastructure project in the area that needs completing but is the one that will bring the greatest benefit to the development, security and liveability of the area".

The Aurora Community Association fully supports the City of Whittlesea's community advocacy campaign ***Access Denied*** and calls on the Commonwealth Government and the Victorian State Governments to commit to building access ramps on the Hume Freeway at O'Herns Road in Epping North in the 2014/2015 budget.

For more information, visit [www.aurora.asn.au/working-groups/public-transport-working-group/](http://www.aurora.asn.au/working-groups/public-transport-working-group/) or [www.accessdenied.net.au](http://www.accessdenied.net.au).

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