

**Mr DAVIS** (Southern Metropolitan) — My matter for the adjournment debate tonight is for the Minister for Public Transport, and it relates to the work of the LXRA, the Level Crossing Removal Authority, and its various projects along the sky rail corridor between Caulfield and Dandenong. What has occurred in recent weeks is the stripping out of literally hundreds of trees, many of them very large, established trees, including longstanding river red gums that in some cases have been there for more than 200 years. Some of them predate European settlement and are a small amount of remnant vegetation that exists in these corridors.

The government of course is not conducting an environment effects statement on the sky rail between Caulfield and Dandenong, nor is there in place an environmental management plan as promised. Worse than that, there is massive destruction that is impacting on this whole corridor. I witnessed this in Noble Park on the weekend, seeing huge, established red gums pulled down. In that corridor there are really only two major strands of remnant old vegetation along the rail corridor and along one particular creek. The rail corridor is now being denuded for long distances with a clear-felling technique that sees every single tree removed in an unsophisticated and thoughtless fashion. It is wanton destruction of the worst type, and the authority is replacing two lines with two lines, so there is no actual increase in capacity for this.

The level crossing removal could have occurred without this sky rail and without this destruction if the government had stuck to its election promises. Nobody of course voted for this particular arrangement. What is clear in Noble Park, Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale is that there is massive destruction. What I am seeking from the minister is that she publish in detail a list of all the trees and their locations. The destruction is huge. These are massive trees, introduced in some cases, but more often longstanding native trees, and the destruction has been huge.

This is a pattern that is emerging with this government. In Blackburn, along the St Kilda Road area and over in Flemington there is huge destruction and no control, with contractors having been let loose without proper arrangements in place. What I would seek from the Minister for Public Transport is a publication on the internet of a full list of all the trees destroyed along this corridor, including their size, estimates of their age and the impact on biodiversity, because this action will see the destruction of birds, it will see the loss of wildlife, and it will have a huge impact on the community.