

29 May 2016

Dear Simon

Can you please convey my apologies to your No-Skyrail Community Forum at the Mentone Bowls Club today. I would very much have liked to attend. However, I am a panelist at the Planning Backlash forum this afternoon.

Your forum is very important because as things stand today it is very likely the the Andrews Government will use a long distance rail over road viaduct, effectively a Skyrail, as its method of removing up to 8 level crossings along the Frankston Line.

This stands in stark contrast to election commitments which in no way mentioned such a backward 1950s style solution. In short nobody voted for Skyrail.

The Government's claim that there are physical, technical and natural barriers that compel this is unconvincing as engineering challenges like the water table were clearly present before the election.

The outcome of Skyrail along the Frankston Line would diminish the amenity and visual beauty of the wonderful coastline leaving residents with an ugly Skyrail and massively increased noise.

Your community needs to be careful not to be led along by the Andrews Government and its agent the LXRA which has not been honest or straight with communities along the Caulfield to Dandenong Line. You must take a clear stand and I pay tribute to the strong position of the Kingston Council in outright opposing Skyrail in recent days.

The forthcoming Federal election and council elections later in the year offer an opportunity to pass judgement on any elected officials who have been weak or tardy in their position on Skyrail.

I understand you will today release images of Skyrail proposals produced officially or unofficially by people associated with the LXRA and its Skyrail spruikers. The seriousness of the Andrews Government's commitment to Skyrail should not be underestimated.

In conclusion, the government should deliver the rail under road solution which virtually every community member believed was what they intended prior to the election.

I wish you the best for your forum.

David Davis MP
Shadow Minister for Planning and Local Government Member for Southern Metropolitan Region