

Mr DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) — Today I raise a matter for the attention of the Premier, and it concerns his action gazetted on 28 July to declare the sky rail project between Caulfield and Dandenong a Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009 project. It is a declaration that the Premier must make. The Premier made it, but to the shock of everyone this was not a complete declaration, because he left out some key parts of the act — parts 3 and 8. These are the sections that contain the protections that mean that projects are looked at thoroughly and improved.

Part 3 was left out. It is headed 'Assessment and approval of major transport projects', and includes sections headed 'Determination of impact assessment process', 'Impact management plans', 'Preparation of impact management plan', 'Comprehensive impact statements', 'Scoping directions', 'Preparation of comprehensive impact assessment', 'Public exhibition of comprehensive impact statements' and 'Refinement of comprehensive impact statements and options for declared project'. I am going through sections of part 3 of the act, and they are pretty clear. There are also sections headed 'Formal public hearings', 'Supplementary comprehensive impact statement assessments', and they go on. All of these have been ripped out of the act and have not been put into operation here.

This follows a travesty of a process relating to the planning amendment that the Minister for Planning, Mr Wynne, declared. What is clear is that the government announced the project. Then it went around the planning approvals after that. It went on a so-called discussion process with the community, but it was not a real process; it was a total and utter sham. Then late in the piece it overrode the community again with the extraordinary powers and teeth in this bill, and it can override local councils at will with this particular bill.

When the act went through the chamber — and I was in the chamber at the time in 2009; it is a Brumby government act — nobody ever imagined for a second that this act would be proclaimed in part. Everyone imagined that it was an integrated act that would actually provide checks and balances and enable a government to proceed with a particular project.

What I am seeking today is that the Premier publish an explanation as to why he has cut these processes short. I am seeking that he publish and explain to the community why he has cut these processes short, because the truth of the matter, I believe, is that he wants a sky rail. He does not want rail under road like he promised the community before the election.