

Mr DAVIS
Wednesday, 19 February 2020
Page 385
[Download Daily](#)

MELBOURNE AIRPORT RAIL LINK

Mr DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) (10:02):*(By leave)* I want to draw the house's attention to the need for the Melbourne Airport rail link. This is a crucial piece of infrastructure. It is something the coalition funded in 2014–15 but was zapped by the new government that came to power. Now we face a very important set of historic decisions. The risk is the state government goes with a half-baked airport link that either forces changes at Sunshine or steals capacity from the western region—from Ballarat, from Geelong, from the Bendigo line, from the Melton and Wyndham Vale lines as they will be—and uses Melbourne Metro 1 capacity. It will already be over capacity when it is built finally, and much over budget. In 2025–26 or whenever it opens—after time and over budget—it will already be over capacity. And they want to twist some of those lines towards the airport rather than building new infrastructure.

The tunnels are important. The focus on actually getting new, fast infrastructure is important. It means not only a fast trip to the airport, a dedicated rail line to the airport, but also capacity for regional rail lines to enable fast regional rail to the regions—to Geelong, to Ballarat, to Bendigo and ultimately to Shepparton too. This is the way we have got to go, not a half-baked, stripped-down approach by Labor to cover up its budget problems.