



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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Is the Andrews Government serious about easing congestion in Melbourne's East?

The Andrews Government says it is proceeding with a \$400 million widening of the Monash Freeway – but the devil is in the detail.

The \$400 million proposal from the State Labor Government is smoke and mirrors. Having committed no funding themselves, it appears they are relying on \$200 million of Federal Government funding which has not been allocated, and \$200 million from the successful tender applicant.

None of this \$400 million “commitment” actually comes from the Andrews Labor Government itself.

In addition, its plans do not include widening the Monash between East Link and Warrigal Road, nor between Clyde Road at Berwick to Cardinia Road.

It's also neglecting the important complementing element of the completion of the Beaconsfield Diamond Interchange. Without this interchange, traffic flows will not have adequate duplicate routes parallel to the Monash Freeway and there will be a huge missed opportunity to provide another East West corridor in the South East.

“This step by the Andrews Labor Government is very concerning for so many reasons” said Jason Wood MP, Federal Member for La Trobe.

“Firstly the infrastructure promise of one extra lane between Clyde Road and Eastlink is nowhere near adequate to deal with congestion. We need at least two lanes extra from Warrigal Road out to Cardinia Road for these works to be genuinely beneficial to those using the roads.

We also need to complete the roads infrastructure system with the completion of the Beaconsfield Diamond Interchange and extension of O'Shea's Road.

“The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to neglect the South East to pay for the West. More needs to be done, this half-finished plan needs an actual financial contribution by the Andrews Government, and it needs to be built for the future – not for just right now.

“While the Coalition remains committed to the East West Link, I will be advocating the release of \$500M of funds earmarked for the East West Link if the State Labor Government decides to finally take the Monash Freeway seriously and match our commitment” said Jason Wood MP.