

MEDIA RELEASE

21 August 2013

East West Link Critical for Victoria's Economy and Liveability

Eight of Victoria's largest industry and membership organisations have thrown their support behind the East-West Link, saying its construction is essential to Victoria's long term economic and social development.

Stage 1 of the East-West Link will be a vital cog in the state's road freight network and must be built if Victoria is to retain its position as the nation's freight logistics capital.

Over the next forty years, Victoria's freight will triple and its containerised trade will quadruple. The only way Victoria will be able to manage this logistical challenge is if a pipeline of major projects such as East-West Link, Metro Rail and the North-East Link are built.

The cost of congestion to the Victorian economy is forecast to rise from \$3 billion to over \$6 billion by 2020. The construction of the East-West Link will be critical to easing Victoria's growing congestion burden.

Once complete, the East-West Link will improve travel times across northern and eastern Melbourne, remove cars and trucks from local streets, reduce north-south tram delays and relieve pressure on the critical Monash Freeway - West Gate Freeway corridor (M1).

The project will also boost state-wide productivity, reduce business costs and improve industry competitiveness.

With Melbourne's population forecast to rise from 4.3 million to over 6.5 million by 2050, the completion of East-West Link will be crucial to protecting Victoria's livability and economic vitality.

Our organisations consider the construction of the East-West Link to be vital to the long term health of the Victorian economy and the millions of workers it supports.

Representative Organisations / Spokespeople:

Australian Logistics Council: Mr Michael Kilgariff – 0418 627 995

Australian Industry Group: Mr Tim Piper – 0411 430 301

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia: Mr Brendan Lyon – (02) 9240 2051

Master Builders Association of Victoria: Mr Radley de Silva – 0402 044 074

Property Council of Australia: Ms Jennifer Cunich – 0411 118 099

Royal Automobile Club of Victoria: Mr Brian Negus – 0419 545 816

Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce: Mr David Purchase – 9829 1105

Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Mr Mark Stone – 8662 5310

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