

Thursday 15 Jan 2009

Melbourne's train system is run down and dangerous, says council group

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) has joined the chorus of concerns about the state of our public transport system, especially the struggling train network.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky said the dangers were made clear by Connex's plan to close stations to prevent customers being pushed in front of trains at peak periods.

'Some signalling and power boxes are nearly a hundred years old. They place the whole system in jeopardy,' she said.

'Instead of grandiose plans for 10 and 12 years ahead we need renovation of the railways now before tragic accidents occur.

'Tracks, signals, power, stations, and trains all need upgrading urgently.

'The Victorian Government seems determined to shift the congestion back on to the roads, creating more pollution and emissions, and even greater danger of deaths and injuries,' she said.

Cr Fristacky also called for a return to local manufacturing of trains to suit Australian conditions.

'Locally made trains and trams should replace European made trains that apparently malfunction under Australian extremes,' she suggested.

**For more information: Cr Jackie Fristacky, Chair,
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Metropolitan Transport Forum represents 19 municipalities across Melbourne on transport issues.

Members of MTF: Cities of Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Casey, Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Yarra and Shire of Nillumbik.



