

4 May 2010

Budget is 'business as usual' for public transport

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF), representing 18 Melbourne councils on transport issues, has labelled the state budget as 'business as usual for public transport'.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky, welcomed the budget funding of scheduled commitments in the Victorian Transport Plan (VTP), but expressed concern that implementation of the VTP was too slow.

'The new \$83.7 M to staff 20 premium stations is a win for train security', she said, 'but investment in public transport is not keeping pace with growing passenger demand or Melbourne's increasing population.'

Cr Fristacky said the budget should have accelerated the metropolitan bus reviews and set allocations to plan new rail lines in Melbourne's east and southeast to meet passenger demands and population growth.

Cr Fristacky said it was also disappointing that tram extensions were not funded. The MTF had sought extensions including route 75 to Knox City, route 48 to Doncaster and route 112 to Reservoir.

The MTF represents 18 Councils covering 2 million people in metropolitan Melbourne.

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