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# Forum to rail against run-down station

THE state of Balaclava station – ranked Melbourne’s second-worst – is expected to dominate discussion at next month’s transport forum.

Commuters will be able to quiz their candidates for the state seats of Caulfield, Prahran and Albert Park on transport policies at the Melbourne Transport Forum event.

Balaclava Station falls just within the boundary of the Caulfield electorate, held by outgoing Liberal MLA Helen Shardey.

Her replacement, David Southwick, said he was on record as saying he would push for an upgrade of the station and would reveal more about the Liberals’ plans at the forum.

Greens candidate Phillip Walker said the Greens believed the station was in need of major redevelopment.

Crime data shows police were called to 56 incidents and there were 16 offences within 100 metres of the station in the second half of last year, including damage, theft, burglary, assault, deception and possession of drugs.

The Victorian Transport Plan, the state government’s blueprint for transport spending for the next 10 years, ignored the station. It was also overlooked in this year’s budget, when it missed out on becoming a premium station.

Mr Southwick said that immediate improvements could be made, such as installing electronic information boards instead of using whiteboards with cancellation and delays announcements. “Basic things like that, that don’t cost a fortune to fix.”

The ALP has not yet finalised a candidate for the seat, but Albert Park MLA Martin Foley and Prahran MLA Tony Lupton are expected to face questions about bus services, trams and the proposed metro railway tunnel.

The forum, supported by MW, is on 7pm– 8.15pm, Wednesday, September 8 at St Kilda Town Hall. RSVP [pprsvp@pt4me2.org.au](mailto:pprsvp@pt4me2.org.au)

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