

Release of East West Link Business Case

December 2014

On 15 December 2014, in accordance with previous commitments made by Premier the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, the Victorian Labor Government publicly released the *East West Link Business Case* and all associated documents with the project.

The previous Coalition Government, led by former Premier the Hon. Dr Denis Napthine MP, had committed to building the East West Link – an 18 kilometre tollway connecting Melbourne’s western suburbs via the Western Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway.

Notwithstanding that Labor in Opposition had promised to abandon the tollway in Government, the Coalition proceeded with the East West Link and in September 2014, prior to the state election, signed a \$5.3 billion contract with the East West Connect consortium to build Stage 1 of the project, which would connect the Eastern Freeway at Clifton Hill to CityLink at Parkville via twin 4.4 kilometre tunnels.

These contracts are currently before the Supreme Court of Victoria, where it is alleged the former Minister for Planning and current Opposition Leader, the Hon. Matthew Guy MP, failed to comply with the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009 when making his approval decision for the project. This court challenge is not due to be resolved until December 2014, at the earliest.

The Labor Government will support the councils’ legal challenge and, irrespective of the outcome, will not proceed with the project.

East West Link Business Case

Over 9000 pages of information relating to various aspects of the East West Link Project have now been released, and include:

- The justification for the project;
- The purported benefits of the project;
- Tolling solutions to funding shortfalls;
- Financial and economic analysis of the project;
- Budgetary impacts;
- Specific technical details and scoping of the project; and
- Plans for the project’s implementation.

The full *East West Link Business Case* and associated documents can be accessed [here](#).