

# Media Release

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## **HEIDI VICTORIA MP**

Shadow Minister for Arts and Culture

Shadow Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

State Member for Bayswater District

### **Safer travel in Bayswater no closer to reality under Labor**

Bayswater District MP Heidi Victoria says the lack of funding for grade separations at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road in the 2015/16 budget shows the Andrews Government's proposed removal of 50 level crossings is a sham.

Before the November election, Daniel Andrews promised that the Bayswater dual level crossings would be part of the statewide program of removal.

"Now when it comes to the crunch, the Government is not financially committed to removing the level crossings at some of Melbourne's most dangerous intersections," Ms Victoria said.

Ms Victoria said the 2015/16 budget indicated the removal of a further 17 railway crossings but no specific details have been released.

"More than \$2.5 million has already been invested in preliminary works at the Bayswater crossings, including stakeholder and community consultation, engineering and design, and relocation of essential services.

"The planning and preliminary work has already been done for the level crossings, so where is the money to continue this shovel-ready project?

"What we have instead is the Andrews Government wanting to redo a community consultation, delaying this vital project indefinitely."

Ms Victoria said the 2015/16 budget had failed to provide any new funding for road and rail work in Bayswater District and across the eastern suburbs.

"East West Link was dumped in favour of a Western distributor. Knox and Maroondah commuters will be paying tolls on our local arterials for at least an extra 15 years – subsidising those in the West using a road most of us will never drive on. This is a shameful and blatant slap in the face for the east."

"Overall the people of Bayswater District have been forgotten by the Andrews Government in this budget. This level crossing removal is vital to ensure safety for motorists and pedestrians and it needs to be made a priority by the Andrews Government," Ms Victoria said.