

Dear Resident,

The Suburban Rail Loop and the future of Glen Waverley

We are writing to you regarding the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project. This project is a game-changer for transport in Victoria – and for shaping Glen Waverley's future. Done right, it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to set the course for Glen Waverley for the next 50 years. However, Council is concerned that the currently proposed Glen Waverley SRL Station will significantly impact and stunt Glen Waverley's future.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know what is being proposed, what Council's key concerns are and to seek your feedback.

The Suburban Rail Loop

The Suburban Rail Loop will be a new 90 km railway line that will link all the major metropolitan major rail lines (including the Glen Waverley Line) to improve public transport options for getting around Melbourne. With a station to be built at Glen Waverley, it will be possible to catch the train from Glen Waverley to Monash University, Deakin University, Southland, Box Hill and Melbourne Airport (as well as many other options).

The SRL project is currently in a planning phase that is being overseen by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRL Authority). Council has been engaging with the SRL Authority for about 18 months about the new Glen Waverley Station. However, we are increasingly concerned that the SRL Authority is not giving sufficient consideration to how the new station will connect with the existing area around it.

Council's concerns

Council has three main concerns with the proposed Glen Waverley SRL Station. These are briefly summarised below and in the attached information flyer.

1. The lack of connection between the new SRL station and the existing Glen Waverley Station

The SRL station and the Glen Waverley Station will not be connected (see the image on the flyer). The SRL station will be built on Council's existing Montclair car park behind Mocha Jo's and the Waverley RSL (the land is going to be compulsorily acquired from Council). Commuters will need to leave one station and cross Coleman Parade to access the other and the SRL Authority is proposing

to close this part of Coleman Parade to traffic. Council believes this is a missed opportunity to have a more integrated and connected station, similar to the Box Hill station which is below a shopping centre. This would also allow for a long overdue enhancement of the existing Glen Waverley Station. The SRL Authority has advised this is outside of its scope. We think this is too short-sighted and fails to take an appropriate whole-of-government approach to this project. At the very least, we believe there should be a below ground interchange for pedestrians to move quickly and easily from the new station to the existing one.

2. The SRL Authority is proposing to permanently close part of Coleman Parade

The SRL Authority is proposing to close Coleman Parade (see map on the flyer) west of Kingsway for approximately 80m. They say this is needed to allow passengers to walk between two stations. However, there are better ways to connect the two stations, such as through a below ground interchange (see point 1 above) and we don't support this closure. Of most concern, the closure of Coleman Parade will lead to significantly increased traffic on Kingsway - including buses and trucks – as all traffic using Coleman Parade will be diverted to Kingsway's busiest section between Bogong Avenue and Coleman Parade. We see this as a real threat to the future of Kingsway and Glen Waverley. Kingsway is already heavily congested and that is just from the local traffic accessing parking and shops. If all traffic using Coleman Parade to get to and from Blackburn Road is to be diverted through the entire length of Kingsway, this will radically change how the road and the shopping strip functions in the future. Council has been planning a major upgrade to Kingsway to widen pavements, remove the kerbside parking and calm the traffic on it by giving much greater priority to pedestrians. However, that vision will be impossible to deliver under the SRL Authority's plans. These issues could easily be overcome by an extension of Myrtle Street across the existing rail line to Railway Parade North to create a ring road around the activity centre. This ring road has been earmarked by Council since the 1960s and was a key part of the Glen Waverley Structure Plan which was adopted in 2014. However, the SRL Authority are not interested in even looking at this – they say it is outside of their scope and not their problem.

3. Impact on car parking

Council had previously committed to build a new 1,000 space multi-level car park on the current Montclair car park which is being acquired for the new station. Just before the commencement of this project, it had to be shelved because of the SRL Authority's decision to acquire this land from Council for the new SRL station. Not only is this new car park impacted, but the 297 existing car parks will be lost. In response, Council is urgently examining other options to address these parking impacts. Some of these parking spaces will be able to be added to the Bogong Avenue Carpark with Council planning to build extra levels there ahead of SRL construction commencing. However, not all the required spaces can be provided at Bogong, and we are continuing to negotiate with the SRL Authority in relation to the rest of the replacement parking required. They have nominated a site north of the railway line (the O'Sullivan Road existing carpark) for temporary replacement parking and as a potential permanent location for these parking spaces. However, without the ring road extension mentioned above, this parking is remote to the heart of Kingsway. Indeed, this parking is even further away than Council's Euneva Multi Deck Car Park which was built 10 years ago and has

never lived up to expectations in terms of its utilisation because it is too distant to activity on Kingsway. Council believes more parking needs to be built south of the existing railway line once the new station is constructed to replace the parking that is to be displaced.

In addition to the above issues, Council also wants to see appropriate support and assistance provided by the SRL Authority to Glen Waverley's traders on and around Kingsway. Our traders have suffered the damaging impacts of the pandemic over the last few years. The 10+ years of construction of the SRL and loss of car parking for their customers will likely have an even more significant impact on their businesses.

As a major infrastructure project, Council believes the SRL can unlock Glen Waverley's potential and set it up for the next 50 years. However, an approach which only cares about building a station as quickly and cheaply as possible and which fails to integrate it with its surroundings (particularly the existing station), has the potential to stunt Glen Waverley and make it less liveable.

Next steps

Council is keen to hear from you about these matters. Do you agree with Council's concerns or are our efforts better directed elsewhere? Please have your say by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer or visiting <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/srl> to complete a two-minute survey. Council will use these results to inform its future advocacy to the SRL Authority on these matters.

You are also invited to an in-person and online information session on Wednesday 13 July from 6-8pm at the Monash Civic Centre or via Zoom to learn more about the SRL project, discuss Council's concerns and tell us what you think. Learn more, take the survey and register your attendance at <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/srl>. If you would prefer a hard copy survey be sent to you, please call 9518 3555.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your say on the future of Glen Waverley.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart James', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR STUART JAMES

Mayor

请致电 9321 5485 或 9321 5481 或登录 <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/srl>