

BUSINESS
south-east

Open for toll road

GREATER Dandenong businesses are open to the idea of a new toll road to ease railway crossing congestion in Dandenong South.

A survey of those who attended the Premier Regional Business Awards breakfast on 2 May found 80 per cent did not oppose the Committee for Dandenong's proposal for the Abbots Road level crossing, which is not high on the priority list for removal despite two deaths at the site in recent years.

A pay-for-use road would sidestep the need for intense government funding and could fast track the project.

The informal survey also found support for a detailed business service directory for the area, because Dandenong had many services local businesses could use but might not be aware of.

There was also a push for more communication around the benefits of the National Broadband Network (NBN) at a local level.



At the project announcement at Bombardier in August 2011, Yarra Trams CEO Michel Masson, Bombardier managing director Dan Osborne, the Transport Department's John Barry and Transport Minister Terry Mulder check out mock-ups of the new fleet. 69469
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Trams set for the road rails

A NEW tram built in Dandenong South hit the tracks this week.

Yarra Trams unveiled the first of 50 Bombardier-built, low-floor E Class trams in Preston on Monday.

Bombardier sales and marketing director Andy Spink said 50 per cent of the project was local manufacturing content.

"So there are a number of companies in Melbourne's south-east that are working with us to deliver these striking vehicles," he said.

"We are very pleased to be building these trams in Dandenong."

Transport Minister Terry Mulder said the first tram would travel around the network over the coming months on a 6000 kilometre testing program.

"Passengers will be able to experience the new E Class trams later this year following the completion of this rigorous testing regime," he said.

Premier Denis Napthine said the first tram's transfer from the Bombardier factory was a significant milestone

in the \$300 million project.

"These new E Class trams are absolutely world-class," he said.

"They will be the most comfortable, safest and highest-capacity trams in Melbourne's fleet.

"At 33 metres long, these trams will also be the longest yet to run on our network.

"They are capable of carrying about 210 passengers each, which is more than any other tram we have in service."

Construction for safety

A KEYSBOROUGH business is among finalists for this year's WorkSafe Awards.

State Assistant Treasurer Gordon Rich-Phillips last week congratulated the first of eight finalists nominated as leaders in workplace health and safety.

Fulton Hogan Construction is vying for the award for the best solution to a specific workplace health and safety issue.

Its work includes road construction, pipelines and infrastructure and its award nomination is for its solution to issues with pumping concrete to fill anti-skid block form work under bridge beams.

To get the concrete to the form work in between the bridge spans, workers had to

manually handle the boom pump pipe and/or bucket the concrete in place.

The award entry said this meant dealing with the concrete pump set up and managing traffic.

Engineers and workers were involved in resolving the issue, which saw cut outs were placed in the bridge spans at conception and designed in "as built".

"This enabled the pump to pump directly to the form work below and not have to set up a second time... and removed the manual handling from the task," the entry said.

It also removed the need for traffic management.

Businesses and individuals have until 12 July to enter one

or more of the 12 WorkSafe Awards categories, with winners to be announced in October.

WorkCover chief executive Denise Cosgrove said the awards were important to recognise large and small businesses across Victoria.

"There are many individuals and businesses across the state doing fantastic work to create healthier and safer workplaces and their efforts should be rewarded," she said.

"We want to honour their achievements and acknowledge the tremendous role they are playing in keeping Victoria the safest state in which to work."

Visit www.worksafeawards.com.au for more information.



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Manufacturing is on the move

VICTORIA'S manufacturing sector was the strongest in Australia during June and its future is looking up.

Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) figures revealed that the state's performance rose 18.1 points in June, compared to a national 5.8 point increase.

Manufacturing Minister

David Hodgett said Victoria's total PMI for June stood at 49.7 points - just 0.3 points below the mark separating contraction from expansion.

A PMI reading above 50 points indicates manufacturing is generally expanding, while below 50 indicates a decline.

The Australian Industry

Group (AiG) calculates the monthly index and said some manufacturers had reported stronger pick-up in local orders, above the usual end of financial year demand.

Victoria's rise was the largest monthly improvement in the index among the states, with indexes for New South Wales and Western Australia deteriorating slightly.

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DANDENONG SOUTH

Bombardier on list

DANDENONG South train manufacturer Bombardier has been named on a short-list of bidders to build Melbourne's new fleet of 37 high-capacity trains.

They will be up against Ballarat's Eureka Rail and Evolution Rail.

The local content requirements mean rolling stock manufacturing must occur in Victoria.

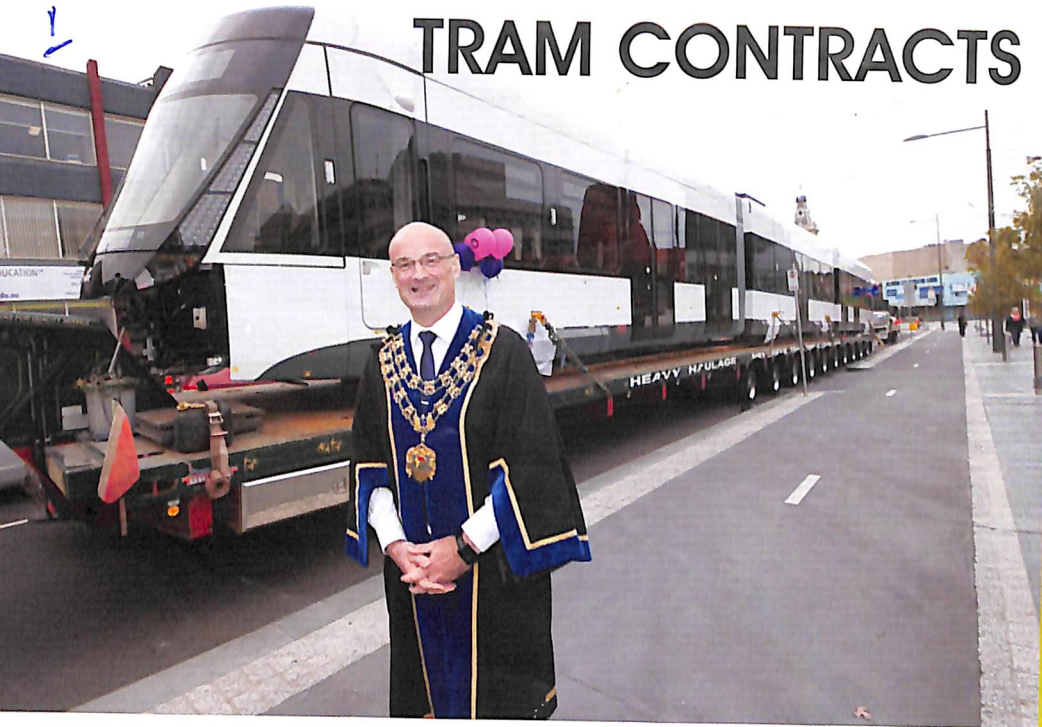
The new trains will be longer than existing ones — able to carry more people with every journey — and

will use the latest technology, making them safer, more reliable and more comfortable for passengers.

The High Capacity Metro Trains Project is the largest investment in new rolling stock in Victorian history and includes a new train maintenance depot in Pak-enham.

The project is expected to create up to 800 jobs during train manufacture and building of the depot and 200 ongoing jobs in train maintenance.

TRAM CONTRACTS



A Dandenong manufacturer will help get Melbourne moving following a \$274 million order from the State Government.

Twenty new E-Class trams will be built at Bombardier's Dandenong factory, and should be completed by 2018.

The order formed part of a \$20 million commitment to train and tram manufacturing in the State Budget announcement in May, and came in the wake of the Dandenong on Wheels event held in the civic square in April.

Dandenong on Wheels celebrated the amazing amount of vehicle manufacturing businesses who call the region home, and was attended by industry leaders and State Government representatives.