

Media Release

Wade Noonan MP, Member for Williamstown

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Road upgrade is another win for residents fighting to reduce dust

A decision by VicRoads to commit \$180,000 to undertake major construction works along Francis Street, between Millers Road and the railway crossing (near Cemetery Road) is a win for Brooklyn and Yarraville residents who have been fighting to reduce dust in the area, says Member for Williamstown, Wade Noonan MP.

The decision by VicRoads to commit funds has occurred due to a concerted campaign by the community and pressure from various stakeholders.

"I first raised this matter on behalf of the community in the Parliament last October and followed that up with a letter to the new Minister in March of this year," Mr Noonan said.

"I asked the State Government to fast-track funding for this section of road as it had been identified by the community and the EPA as a major source of dust."

Vicroads has advised the Brooklyn Community Reference Group that the following road works will commence along Francis Street in June 2011:

- Seal 2.5m of the unsealed sections of the shoulder with asphalt;
- Re-sheet the unsealed shoulder areas back of 2.5m from roadway edge;
- Cross fall the shoulder areas away from the road way in order to allow water run off to flow accordingly.

VicRoads has stated that these works will decrease dust, remove all hazards such as pot-holes and edge drop offs and improve the presentation of the road.

"This is a positive outcome and demonstrates what can be achieved when community groups such as the *Brooklyn Residents Action Group* and the *On the Nose Group* work together to influence government agencies such as VicRoads," Mr Noonan said.

"No one would expect that this road upgrade will eradicate all dust problems in the Brooklyn and Yarraville area, but small measures like these will still be welcomed by the community," Mr Noonan said.

"Notwithstanding this win, I still think we need a wholesale re-think about the future land use in the Brooklyn industrial precinct, and I'm disappointed that the Victorian Planning Minister has yet to commit to a strategic land planning study for the area," Mr Noonan said.

"As I've said previously, the Brooklyn area has an over supply of odour and dust polluting businesses and I'm not aware of any planning strategy to prevent more opening in the future," Mr Noonan said.

"I'll keep working with the community to drive change and environmental improvements in the Brooklyn and Yarraville area."

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Media contact: Chris Ransom 9399 9022 or 0413 482 502