

WHY SHOULD KILMORE AND WALLAN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS BE TRANSFERRED TO WANDONG. HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE WALLAN KILMORE BYPASS AT A PUBLIC MEETING

The Wandong - Heathcote Junction Community Group Inc. has arranged for a public meeting to be held at the Wandong Public Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 24th November to update residents on the discussions held with VicRoads and decide the course of action regarding the interchange at Wandong. The residents will be given the opportunity to sign a petition requesting the Victorian Government to reconsider and change its decision to place the interchange on top of our town.

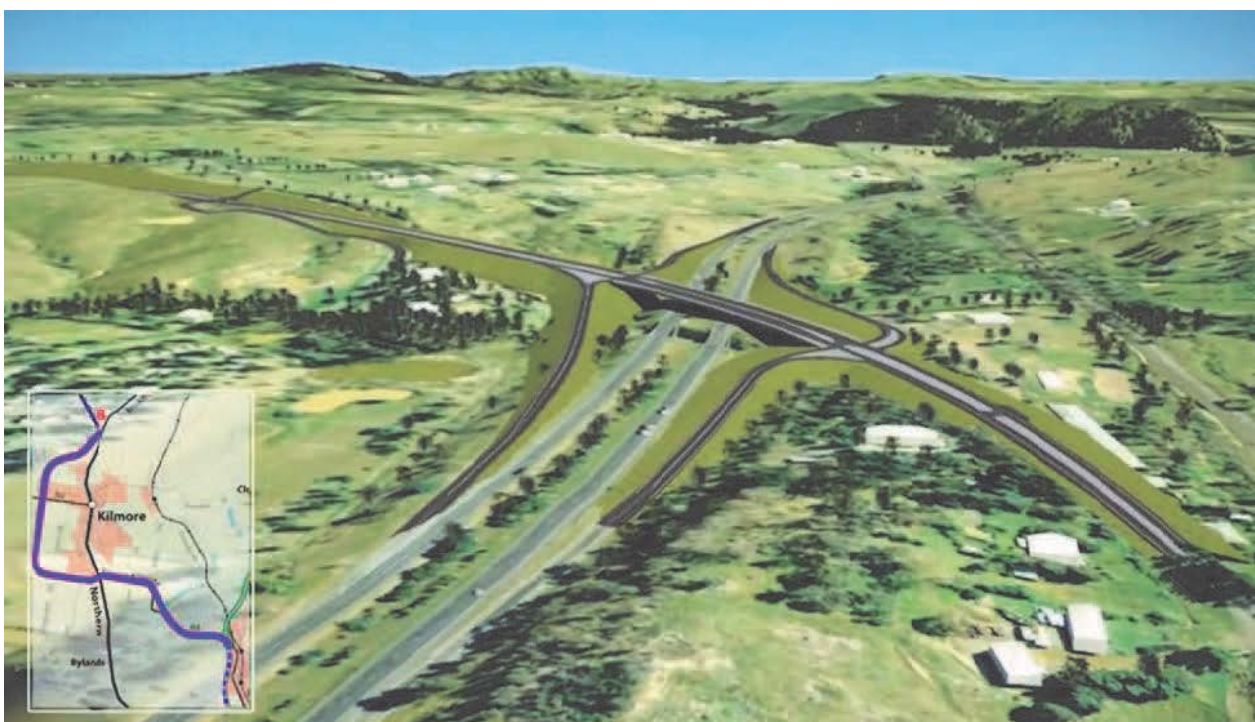
Prior to the Andrews Government decision to build the Wallan - Kilmore bypass on the Western option, the residents of Wandong - Heathcote Junction were never consulted. The massive impact on Wandong - Heathcote Junction by placing a major interchange on our doorstep was never considered by Vicroads, the selection panel or the Government.

Since becoming aware of the decision, the community lead by the Wandong - Heathcote Junction Community Group has endeavoured, almost pleaded with the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Luke Donnellan, and Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes to meet with the community to discuss the huge and obviously unconsidered impacts on Wandong - Heathcote Junction. Letters sent to all parties concerned on 22 June 2015, including several Members of Parliament have been met with negativity and brush offs. The letter to Jaclyn Symes still remains unanswered. One Member, Steph Ryan, Member for Euroa has at least endeavoured to raise the matter in Parliament and with the Minister for Roads and Roads Safety but appears to be met with the same disdain.

It is not good enough for VicRoads to blame the selection panel and the Government for making the western route decision. Both have relied on recommendations from VicRoads.

It is not good enough that none of the decision makers have bothered to consult the Wandong - Heathcote Junction community. Only after the announcement was made did VicRoads feel it should offer token meetings and hope the matter would go away. When it was evident it was not going to go away, there have been some more —consultation/information meetings but as far as altering the proposed Wandong interchange plans this has not been negotiable.

It is not good enough for the Minister for Roads and Roads Safety and the Member for Northern Victoria to ignore the Wandong - Heathcote Junction community which has repeatedly asked for meetings to discuss the detrimental social, economic, environment, amenity, traffic and safety issues that will impact on the township of Wandong - Heathcote Junction if the current proposed option of the Kilmore/Wallan Bypass Interchange is constructed at Wandong.



THE WESTERN BYPASS OF KILMORE AND THE VERY FAST TRAIN

There has been deafening silence from the Government, VicRoads and Mitchell Shire who have indicated that they will meet with the residents of Wandong - Heathcote Junction to discuss alternatives to the proposed interchange at Wandong to the Western Bypass of Kilmore. It appears WHJ does not rate when considering the adverse impact on the town when Kilmore's traffic problems are transferred to Wandong. There has been no consultation to date, before and after the announcement and it really is a disgrace. It appears that VicRoads is a law to itself, the Government its puppet and the Shire sits on the fence. What hope have we got.

The Very Fast Train project between Melbourne / Sydney / Brisbane could easily be a reality within the next decade and it does not appear any authority has taken its consequences for Wandong (and other towns in Mitchell Shire) in to consideration. The map below indicates it will pass Wandong just west of the freeway.

Source: http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/rail/trains/high_speed/files/HSR_Phase_2_Chapter_4.pdf

