

# OUR COMMUNITY URGENTLY NEEDS FINDON ROAD DUPLICATION AND EXTENSION

Our community urgently needs Findon Road to be extended and duplicated between Epping Road and Plenty Road to increase road capacity and ease traffic congestion.

Findon Road is a planned east-west arterial road that will cross the municipality and provide a link between the Hume Freeway in Epping and Plenty Road in South Morang.

The current alternative is McDonalds Road which is a two way single lane carriageway of a rural standard that carries around 22,000 vehicles a day.<sup>1</sup>

McDonalds Road has exceeded its traffic volume capacity as it provides direct access to the Plenty Valley Town Centre and South Morang railway station.

An alternative east-west arterial road is needed that bypasses the Plenty Valley Town Centre to access employment destinations in Epping and regionally in the City of Hume.

## CITY OF WHITTLESEA CONGESTION

Our communities are increasingly concerned by traffic congestion. The burden of significant traffic congestion and poor access to public transport means that many residents face a two hour commute to work.<sup>2</sup>

We continually hear about the health and wellbeing impacts of long and frustrating commute times and social isolation directly from residents, in our community consultations and through our Annual Household Survey.

This proposal to duplicate and extend a key section of Findon Road is a vital element towards improving the liveability and wellbeing of our residents.

## SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERNS TO ROAD USERS

- **Traffic accidents**  
From 2013 to 2018 Findon Road had 26 traffic accidents with eight accidents of a serious nature and 26 people injured. The road's unsuitability to the high volume of traffic contributes to these accidents.<sup>3</sup>



## What is needed: Extension and duplication

- Council has committed to extending Findon Road from Williamsons Road to Plenty Road, including funding the bridge over the rail corridor.
- Council has committed to upgrade the Findon Road/Ferres Boulevard/The Lakes Boulevard intersection.
- The State Government has committed to:
  - o building the O'Herns Road Interchange at the Hume Freeway
  - o the duplication of O'Herns Road
- The next vital stage is to duplicate Findon Road. This requires State Government funding to duplicate the existing two lane road to a four lane divided road between Plenty Road and Epping Road with associated pedestrian footpaths and cycling infrastructure.

- **Traffic congestion**

Findon Road between Epping Road and Williamsons Road carries 17,000 vehicles per day with road users experiencing congestion.<sup>4</sup> Traffic modeling projections suggest that Findon Road will carry 35,000 vehicles per day by 2031.<sup>5</sup>

- **Unsuitable for large volumes of traffic**

Findon Road from Epping Road to the E6 road reservation is built to a rural standard that cannot safely handle the high traffic volume with poor shoulders, open drains and inadequate pedestrian footpaths. Urban development planned in Quarry Hills Precinct Structure Plan and commercial development in Danaher Drive will only worsen traffic congestion.

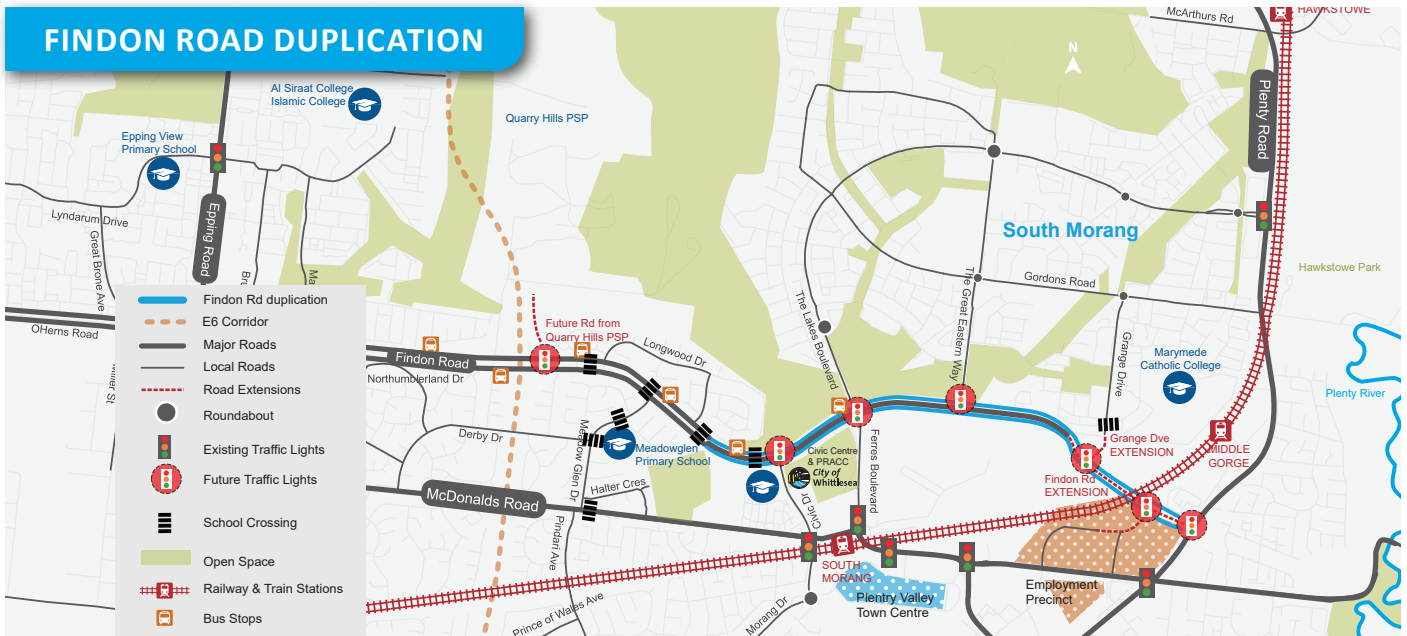
- **Unsafe intersections**

Duplication of Findon Road will also require intersection upgrades to traffic lights at:

- o Grange Drive, upon extension of the road to Findon Road
- o The Great Eastern Way
- o The Lakes Boulevard-Ferres Boulevard (Council funded and starting in 2019-20)
- o Civic Drive, Quarry Hills/E6 and Maserati Drive.

## CONGESTION AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RISKS WILL WORSEN WITH GROWTH

Between 2012 and 2019, the population of Epping North grew by 23,001 people, and the population of Mernda and Doreen grew by 33,000 people.<sup>6</sup> In 2041, the populations of Epping North, Mernda and Doreen at 2041 are shown in the following table.



### Projected population increases to areas serviced by Findon Road<sup>7</sup>

	2019	2041	INCREASE IN RESIDENTS	% INCREASE
<b>EPPING NORTH</b>	34,531	57,873	23,342	68%
<b>DOREEN</b>	26,545	31,048	4,503	17%
<b>MERNDA</b>	25,882	34,451	8,569	33%

Given Findon Road currently poses serious safety risks there is an overwhelming need for its duplication in light of projected population growth.

### EXTENDING AND DUPLICATING FINDON ROAD WILL:

- Provide a key east-west arterial road that will significantly increase road capacity and reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce the volume of traffic on McDonalds Road and enhance people’s access to facilities and services including the Plenty Valley Town Centre
- Enable the operation of more regular and reliable bus services on Findon Road and McDonalds Road
- Increase road safety by:
  - o improving pedestrian and cyclist safety
  - o separating oncoming traffic using a central median, thereby reducing the likelihood of head on collisions
  - o providing turning lanes at points beyond intersections, ensuring the safe flow of traffic and reducing the likelihood of rear end collisions
  - o restricting right turns from side roads and driveways to nominated points so that drivers can only turn right into high flow traffic at signalised intersections.

### CITY OF WHITTLESEA PLANNING

The City of Whittlesea’s Council Plan identifies seven Future Directions based on an extensive community consultation process. The road improvement requested will directly assist each of these Future Directions, particularly “Accessibility in out and around our city”<sup>8</sup>. The proposal is included in Council’s Road and Public Transport Plan (2017) and also addresses Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy (2014).<sup>9</sup> The State Government policies used as a guide include the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2013-2022 and the Towards Zero 2016-2020 Road Safety Strategy.

<sup>1</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Counts 2011*.  
<sup>2</sup> City of Whittlesea 2016 Annual Household Survey.  
<sup>3</sup> VicRoads Crash Statistics, 2013- 2018 [accessed July 2019].  
<sup>4</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Counts 2017*.  
<sup>5</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Model – Part 2* (2015).  
<sup>6</sup> Profile.id (2019), City of Whittlesea Population Profile, Usual Residents by precinct. <https://profile.id.com.au/whittlesea/population?WebID=130>, [accessed July 2019].  
<sup>7</sup> forecast.id (2019), *City of Whittlesea Population Forecasts*. Forecast for Epping North. [www.forecast.id.com.au/whittlesea](http://www.forecast.id.com.au/whittlesea) [accessed July 2019].  
<sup>8</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Shaping Our Future Community Plan 2030 and Council Plan 2017-2021*.  
<sup>9</sup> City of Whittlesea, *Road and Public Transport Plan* (2017) and *Integrated Transport Strategy* (2014).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Michele Purtle**  
Senior Advocacy Advisor

- 📞 9217 2242
- ✉ Michele.Purtle@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au