



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



West Gate Tunnel Continuing to Burden the Taxpayer

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Derryn Hinch's Justice Party State Leader, Stuart Grimley MP has had enough of the continual setbacks and cost blowouts to the West Gate Tunnel Project

The Government has continually underestimated the costs and timing for major infrastructure projects. The West Gate Tunnel project is now two years behind original timelines and is predicted to have a \$3 billion blow out.

Other major infrastructure projects, such as the Metro Tunnel, is estimated to cost taxpayers an extra \$1.37 billion and the removal of 50 level crossings will cost an extra \$2.3 billion more than originally estimated.

Sometimes, extra expenses will occur with major projects beyond the construction contingency fee, however billions of dollars of extra expenses is ridiculous. These extra funds could be used to build the Northern Aquatic & Community Hub in Geelong, the Moorabool Aquatic & Recreation Centre in Bacchus Marsh, or the standardisation of the Murray Basin Rail Project and much more in regional Victoria.

Mr Grimley voted against the 10-year extension on tolls by CityLink, which is estimated to cost each CityLink user (using the toll road each weekday) \$87,047 extra than the original agreement.

Other cross bench MPs including Andy Meddick, Fiona Patten, Rod Barton, Clifford Hayes and Catherine Cumming all voted for the increase in tolls for motorists.

Quotes Attributable to Mr Grimley:

"I have continually voted against extensions of tolls on CityLink. Victorians shouldn't be slugged more money for failures in government projections. It is a real shame that other crossbench MPs have continued to support these price rises and extensions.

It is about time that we get to the bottom of the West Gate Tunnel issues. Victorians are sick and tired of seeing blame being shifted.

Victorians are being kept in the dark about the actual costs of the delays to the West Gate Tunnel. We need to be sure that taxpayers won't be burdened with more costs because of failures in the project.

I get quite frustrated when I see costs of metropolitan roads being absorbed by regional and rural Victorians to the tune of billions of dollars; it just doesn't seem fair to me."

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