

Crossings on the list



Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee members Dulcie Hook and Nellie Montague at the Reservoir rail crossing.

Picture: ANGIE BASDBK15

Tessa Hoffman

A COMMUNITY-led campaign to secure funding for projects to ease traffic congestion and improve safety kicked off in Reservoir last week.

The newly formed Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee will lobby both sides of politics to commit to the removal of five level crossings and upgrade a bike path in the municipality's north in the lead up

COMMITTEE AIMS TO PRIORITISE UPGRADES

to November's state election. Thirteen residents, two councillors and council officers make up the committee.

They are calling for funding for a Darebin grade separation package – five grade separations at High St in Reservoir and Bell St in Preston, together with Murray Rd, Cramer St and Oakover Rd as a group – and an upgrade to the Great North-

ern Bikeway (the St Georges Rd and Cheddar Rd shared paths) to improve safety and allow for predicted increases in use.

Committee member Dulcie Hook, 85, said fixing the Reservoir crossing was critical because it was dangerous for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, particularly disabled.

"I heard from a neighbour

this problem goes back to the 1920s or 30s, when a doctor on a horse and cart across the crossing was hit by a train and killed," she said.

Fellow committee member Nellie Montague, 22, said the earmarked projects would benefit all commuters.

"We chose the bikeway because it would cater for peo-

ple who are riding, walking, pushing prams, and the grade separations for people who are commuting east-west along key roads."

Darebin Mayor Gaetano Greco agreed. "Both projects are critical ones that our council would like to see funded," Cr Greco said.

The committee has launched an online petition and will lobby MPs and run events to promote its cause.

Follow the campaign at darebin.vic.gov.au/DTAC

TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN



Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee members Dulcie Hook (front) and Nellie Montague. Picture: ANGIE BASDEKS

Group rails against the crossings

HOPES TO CLEAR CONGESTION

Tessa Hoffman

A COMMUNITY-led campaign to secure funding for projects to ease traffic congestion and improve safety kicked off last week.

The Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee will lobby politicians to commit to removing five level crossings and upgrade a bike path in the municipality's north in the lead-up to November's state election.

Thirteen residents, two councillors and council officers make up the committee.

They are calling for funding for a Darebin grade separation package – five grade separations at High St in Reservoir and Bell St in Preston, together with Murray Rd, Cramer St and Oakover Rd as a group – and an upgrade to the Great Northern Bikeway (the St Georges Rd and Cheddar Rd shared paths) to improve safety and allow for predicted increases in use.

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the 1920s or 30s, when a doctor on a horse and cart across the crossing was hit by a train and killed," she said.

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"We chose the bikeway because it would cater for people who are riding, walking, pushing prams, and the grade separations for people who are commuting east-west along key roads."

Darebin Mayor Gaetano Greco agreed.

"Both projects are critical ones that our council would like to see funded," Cr Greco said. "We've seen Melbourne's population boom in recent years, which is clogging up roads and sees trains packed morning and night."

"Investment into sustainable transport that works for our city is desperately needed."

The committee has launched an online petition and will lobby MPs and run events to promote its cause.

Sign the petition at change.org/en-AU/petitions/we-need-transport-that-works-in-darebin or follow the campaign at darebin.vic.gov.au/DTAC

EPIC VOYAGE

The expedition continues – with a whale

TIM'S JOURNEY



NORTHCOTE Leading Senior Constable Tim Spiteri and the rest of the crew of the *Avalon* are well on their way to Kenya, having changed their end destination from South Africa.

Dogged determination is seeing the crew through, despite one crew member,

Shane Usher, having to be evacuated after a serious hot water burn.

Sen-Constable Spiteri's diary continues:

July 23 – Yesterday we were cruising along in fairly consistent and calm conditions when we felt an enormous bump to the starboard side of our boat.

Looking around, we were gobsmacked to see a large body, mostly submerged, appear on the port side. It was a blue whale! Meas-

uring at least 15m, it continued to swim on after T-boning us, then amazingly, it turned and came at us again!

This time it missed us, swimming past the boat, then disappeared into the vast ocean. What a surreal and amazing experience.

Today we will have less than 2000 miles to go. Everyone is in positive spirits despite fatigue and pain, but it's being managed well.

The forecast on the water

looking good for the next seven days at least.

After losing Shane, we are down to five crew. It's been difficult and has taken every bit of effort and teamwork to get through.

But we are now going well with two on the oars at any one time – one steering (due to the loss of our auto steer function) while the others rest at wait for the next shift.

We can't wait to get to Africa!

Details: timsvooyage.com



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