



Knox Leader
07/10/2008
Page: 21
General News
Region: Melbourne
Circulation: 62729
Type: Suburban
Size: 90.19 sq.cms
-T-----

Mayor's RACV letdown

KNOX Council and the Eastern Transport Coalition have expressed disappointment with a new RACV report, saying it has failed to address much-needed public transport upgrades.

The RACV's Connect Outer Melbourne report outlined road improvements, rail line extensions and public transport service improvements to "address the critical backlog of projects" in outer Melbourne. It said improving public transport stayed a "key requirement" for Knox as EastLink would not

alleviate all transport issues.

But Knox Mayor Jim Penna said he was disappointed that a train line to Rowville and a tram line to Knox had been overlooked. "The RACV is saying it's too late to put in the Rowville rail; that it should have happened 20 years ago," he said. "The council has been campaigning for it for 40 years and just because previous governments have failed to act doesn't mean Rowville residents should pay the price."

Eastern Transport Coalition chairman Cr Mick

Van de Vreede said the RACV must "only have heard half the message" when it attended the recent coalition transport summit.

Professor Bill Russell, deputy director of Melbourne University's Centre for the Governance and Management of Urban Transport, said the Rowville train line was "achievable, it is realistic and it is necessary".

The RACV's report will be considered in the context of the Victorian Transport Plan, to be released at the end of the year.