



Baillieu says government policy going nowhere fast

Inga Gilchrist

Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu said the State Government could not be trusted to sort out Melbourne's traffic woes.

"After a decade of decline and tinkering around the edges of our decaying transport system, John Brumby's only plan to solve the transport mayhem he has created is for Melburnians

to endure another 10 years of chaos," he said.

Victorians should doubt the Premier's ability to build the Eddington plan after delays and cost blowouts to the myki ticketing system, Baillieu said.

"This is about trying to patch up an urban transport system that is already falling apart because of a lack of investment and a failure to plan."

Public Transport Users Asso-

ciation president Daniel Bowen said the Eddington scheme wasted money.

"It's not clear why \$20 billion of tunnels are needed to link little-used freeways," he said.

"We could run 50 per cent more trains through the CBD.

"We have to see why these multi-billion-dollar tunnels are needed when that money could go on network upgrades."

University of Melbourne Cen-

tre for Urban Transport deputy director Professor Bill Russell said commuters in Werribee and Geelong were winners at the expense of Doncaster and Collingwood residents.

Fitzroy and Collingwood will swarm with toll-dodgers under the Eddington plan, he said.

"It means residents in the new suburbs on the western plain will have better transport choice," Russell said.